Bell Farm / Major Bell Timeline

Major William Robert Bell: 1845 – 1913

"A man without fear of risk."

© Bell Barn Society of Indian Head

Primarily Compiled by:

Michelle Cabana, Saskatoon
Frank Korvemaker, Regina

Introduction

Purpose: This Timeline is presented so that readers can follow the life and exploits of Major William Robert Bell and his family and associates between 1845 and 1913, as they travelled and lived at various locations in North America and Europe. The primary focus, however, is on Major Bell himself.

In many instances, references are provided to historical documents that detail the subject matter. At other times, where that text is brief, or where an illustration is available, copies of the documents may be inserted.

Conflicting and Confusing References to Ensign /Captain / Major / W.R. Bell: A soldier named **Sgt W.R. Bell** of Carleton Place, Ontario **,** who appears in 1860s and 70s military records, is a different person. In later years, probably after Major W.R. Bell left Indian Head in 1896, there is another "Major Bell" resident in Winnipeg, who also makes the newspapers on occasion. Care needs to be taken to differentiate between the two. In addition, a third Major Bell surfaces at McTaggart, Saskatchewan, and hence there also appears to be some confusion between these two Saskatchewan-based men. Moreover, there are a considerable number of men called "Major Bell" in the Canadian, American and British military during the 19th and 20th centuries. When doing further research on the Major W.R. Bell in this report , keep in mind that he originated in Brockville, Ontario, worked for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in the 1860s, and had strong links to Winnipeg, Manitoba between 1882 and 1913. Around 1880 he was a partner with Charles Kelso in the Bell-Kelso Farm at Hallock, Minnesota. After leaving Indian Head in 1896, he resided briefly in Brockville, then also in England, Ireland, the Bahamas and then Winnipeg, and had business dealings with silver mining near Thunder Bay, Ontario and with coal mining near Edmonton, Alberta. Finally, Major Bell was an avid marksman (especially with a rifle), and enjoyed curling, horse and dog racing, and regularly crossed the Atlantic Ocean for business and pleasure.

Conflicting and Confusing References to the "Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company" and the "Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate": The Bell Farm was originally known as the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, with Major W.R. Bell as its Manager. Shortly after the farm was established north of Indian Head, it came to be called the Bell Farm., and in later years was re-incorporated as the Bell Farming Company. At almost exactly the same time in the spring and summer of 1882, another corporate farm – called the Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate – was established near Moose Jaw, with Col. S. Richardson as its Manager. The Bell Farm was headquartered in Winnipeg; while the Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate had its headquarters in Regina.

Sources: There are over 1,800 entries in this document. Many of them are extracted from published sources, particularly newspapers and books. As well, a small number of archival records have been located and used. Based on our research to date, there are many hundreds of additional entries yet to be located and incorporated into the Timeline.

Newspapers: The most productive sources include those listed below. Although newspapers are notorious for their spelling and typographic errors, they are excellent sources for further research. In some instances, the "facts" recorded in newspapers can be corroborated by other sources. Unfortunately, that is not always so, and in some cases, extremely important, and perhaps controversial, information has only be found in the newspapers.

- *Almonte Gazette – link provided by Andrw Jeanes, Heritage Conservation Advisor, Gov. of Ontario*
- *Brandon Sun*
- *Emerson Daily International*
- *Manitoba Daily Free Press (later known as Winnipeg Free Press) – **NOTE**: this has been the major source for many newspaper references to Major Bell. However, not all references to Major Bell / Bell Farm have yet been extracted and incorporated into this Timeline.*
- *Qu'Appelle Progress – link provided by Margaret Hryniuk*
- *Qu'Appelle Vidette - link provided by Margaret Hryniuk*
- *Regina Leader* – established March 1883 (later known as *Regina Leader-Post)*
- *Winnipeg Tribune*
- *Winnipeg Sun*

Partisan Reporting: It should also be noted that newspaper publishers / editors were notoriously partisan, and hence newspapers owned by Liberal publishers (like the *Manitoba Free Press*) regularly were critical of Major Bell and the Bell Farm operation; while those owned by Conservative publishers (like the *Regina Leader*) tended to favour the Major. At the same time, the "facts" in those newspapers could well be tainted one way or the other, without necessarily providing significant proof of their veracity. This situation was particularly evident during and after the North-West Rebellion of 1885, when the role and actions of Major Bell, Lieut. Gov. Dewdney and/or the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company were called into question by Liberal publishers and politicians throughout Canada.

Local Histories: Many of Saskatchewan's local histories include references to the Bell Farm. Generally these are brief notations, such as mention that a certain person or family first worked on the Bell Farm when they emigrated to Canada or moved to the Indian Head area from another Canadian province or American state. While the facts in local histories are seldom based on creditable documentation, they do provide excellent leads on where to search for further information. Seldom have any of the facts relating to the Bell Farm in these books been proven to be erroneous, and none is known to have been deliberately false. Not surprisingly, local histories which have the largest number of Bell Farm references are those in close proximity to Indian Head.

Other Books: A considerable number of people who visited the Bell Farm during the 1880s and 90s returned home and wrote reports or books on their travels, and often provided substantial detail on their stay at the Bell Farm. Due to its size (approximately 10 miles square - between 54,000 and 64,000 acres) the Bell Farm was regularly referred to as the largest contiguous farm in the world at the time of its operation (1882-1896) and superlative words are regularly used to describe the farm, such as "immense", "great", "enormous", "gigantic", "massive", "huge" and so forth. For visitors used to seeing small family farms, a visit to the Bell Farm was an amazing experience, worthy of reporting to their home community or country. Also referred to as "celebrated" and "famous".

Archival Collections: Records located in official archives are generally considered to be the most accurate and creditable. However, archival institutions collect both official and folklore documentation, an it is

incumbent on the researcher to review these records with this in mind. The primary archives consulted for the Timeline have been the following:

- **Library and Archives Canada (LAC)** – This institution houses many of the official Government of Canada records, and those of particularly noteworthy individuals, such as Sir John A. Macdonald, who communicated with Major Bell and his associates on a number of occasions and matters. Only a small number of those records have been reviewed to date.
- **Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS)** – This agency now includes the records donated by the Bell Family, such as letters to and from Major Bell, Calling Cards addressed to Major and Mrs. Bell, some business documents, and a substantial number of family photographs. As the Archives does not, as a rule collect artifacts, the medals and trophies acquired by Major Bell – primarily for his marksmanship with a rifle – are housed at the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. However, references to those items will be found in the Timeline. An unusual group of records in the Provincial Archives are the 72 Calling Cards from Major and Mrs. Bell's friends and business acquaintances, dating from 1891 to 1913. Most (51) lack the year date. Those with a complete date are included in the Timeline. Some cards are illustrated to show the variety of designs and content.

  The Provincial Archives has also acquired a ledger of original telegrams dating to the North-West Rebellion / Conflict / Resistance of 1885. Twenty-nine of those relating to Major Bell are transcribed in this Timeline.
- **Indian Head Museum (IHM)** – Included within this local museum collection is an accounting book by blacksmith John Brown, which details a substantial number of references to work being performed for the Bell Farm. This is the only significant source discovered to date for the business operations of the Bell Farm. Although the cover indicates a date range of 1883-1898, the details for the Bell Farm are only from July 1889 to 1897. Possibly before 1889 the Bell Farm maintained its on-site blacksmith. John Brown "quit work at Indian Head, Saturday [Dec.] 21, 1898." A separate series of entries for the "Bell Farm" after Major Bell left Indian Head covers the period from June 1897 until March 1898. (P. 147).

Further Research: As noted above, most of the entries in this Timeline come from newspaper clippings and various other publications. Potential sources which have not yet been examined in detail include:

- Canadian Pacific Railway Archives – corporate records as well as those associated with various dignitaries who visited or were involved with the Bell Farm
- Hudson's Bay Company Archives – corporate records relating to sale of the land
- Library and Archives Canada: Department of the Interior
- Library and Archives Canada: Department of Indian Affairs
- Library and Archives Canada: Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Sessional Papers – Government of Canada
- Sessional Papers – North-West Territories
- Papers of Lieutenant Governors Dewdney (1881-88), Royal (1888-93) and Mackintosh (1893-98)

- Papers of various dignitaries who are known to have visited the Bell Farm between 1882 and 1896
- Minutes and business records - Rural Municipality of Indian Head
- Minutes and business records - Town of Indian Head
- Canadian business agencies with which Major Bell was associated in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta – especially relating to agriculture, land dealings, mining and railway development
- Business agencies with which Major Bell was associated in England, Ireland, the Bahamas and possibly the United States
- Recreational organizations to which Major Bell belonged, especially sports
- Organizational agencies to which Mrs. Bell belonged, such as the Presbyterian Church of Canada
- Brockville, Ontario and Hallock, Minnesota activities, where the Bell family lived
- Major Bell's employment with the Grand Trunk Railway in Ontario in the 1860s
- Major Bell's militia career in Ontario during the 1860s and 70s
- Major Bell's controversial involvement in the North-West Rebellion of 1885 – various articles in the *Manitoba Daily Free Press* are clearly anti-Conservative government - and hence anti-Major Bell - in tone. Sorting out the truth of these accusations may be challenging. The North-West Rebellion War Claims Commission Report will be a major source for clarifying this matter.
- Major Bell's inventive activities
- Major Bell's early education in Ontario and the United States
- Local histories for the three prairie provinces for references to people who lived on or worked at the Bell Farm – that number exceeds 200 at present

How to use the Timeline

Scroll through in Chronological Order: As much as possible, the data presented below has been placed in chronological order, starting with the birth of Major Bell in 1845 and ending with his death in 1913.

Latest Additions: to see a listing of the most recent additions to the Timeline, go to the end of the document and scroll back a few pages, until you come to the page marked as **THE END.** The title for each new addition to the Timeline is presented in chronological order.

Word Search: It should be possible to undertake a "word search / word find" of the basic text. However, this will probably not apply to text incorporated into photographic documents inserted into the text. Therefore, photos of many shorter clippings have been retyped to take advantage of this search option. Although this increases the potential for typographic errors, the benefits outweigh the potential problems.

Enlarging Images: JPG images can be copied from the pdf (left click), inserted into a WORD document, and then enlarged by dragging the corners. The "kb" notation by some of the images indicate the size and possible quality. The originals are often of much higher resolution, but adding them in at full size makes this document too large to send out as a PDF.

NOTE: Text in Green - from 11 Sept. 2014 e-mail from Michelle Cabana to Frank Korvemaker needs to be reviewed re TRIPS in order to ensure that all relevant information has been properly transcribed in the Timeline. These green highlighted entries start in January 1887.

Note: Text in Blue: Brickmaking in Saskatchewan is another interesting component of the province's history and development. Therefore, reference to brick manufacture are printed in blue, including the brick factory established by Maass, Mangelsdorf and Company on the Bell Farm in 1883. However, A.J. Osment, who built many of the initial 100 or so frame buildings on the farm, was also involved with the brick plant just west of Indian Head, as well as a later factory north of the Farm, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, at Katepwa. Clem Peltier took over Osment's operation at Katepwa, and it is sometimes confusing to determine which bricks were made where and by whom in the Indian Head region. To date, no identifying manufacturer marks have been found imprinted into any of the pale yellow brick made in the Katepwa-Indian Head region.

Note: Text in Purple: This generally consist of comments by the primary authors: Michelle Cabana or Frank Korvemaker. A colleague in England, Bill Pinfold, has also contributed important information that is difficult to find and review without access to European newspapers and other documents.

Wages and Money Conversion:

Following are some references to the value of money mentioned in the historical records for the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These values have not been converted into their current (c.2024) values within the text. However, based on the wages paid in the construction industry over the past 150 years, that equivalency is at least 40 to 50 times greater now than it was back in the 1880s, and sometimes considerably more. For example, a Brandon, Manitoba bricklayer was paid about 40 cents per hour, and worked a 10-hour day, in 1884. In 2016, a Regina, Saskatchewan bricklayer earned about $36.00 per hour, or $288 per day for an 8-hour day. When looking at wages, however, one should also look at the cost of living, which was much less in the 1880s than it is today.

- Dec. 8, 1883 - Labourers on the Bell Farm are paid 35 dollars (£7) per month in summer, and 28 dollars (£5 12 s) in winter, besides a cottage each, rent free, and an acre of land
- Dec. 18, 1883 - The employees are paid 35 dollars a month, or about £80 a year
- Oct. 5, 1886 - £100 sterling was worth $500 Canadian

Note: "check for details": About 50 documents that include this notation have not yet been found and/or read, and may include important details not previously known about Major Bell and / or the Bell Farm. If you have access to any of those document, please contact me at the address below.

Production, Distribution and Copyright History:

- First compiled and privately distributed by Frank Korvemaker – Version 1 - 25 April, 2014 (19 textual pages, no illustrations).
- First recorded on title page as "© Bell Barn Society of Indian Head" – Version 22 – 17 May 2017 – but no formal copyright with Government of Canada was ever applied for (137 pages, with illustrations).
- First publicly distributed on the website of the Bell Barn Society of Indian Head - Version 30 - 17 June 2020 (between 263 pages – ver. 29; and 334 pages – ver. 21).
- Most recent distribution on the website of the Bell Barn Society of Indian Head – Version 35 – 8 Sept. 2024 – (675 pages)
- Current document – Version 36 – 31 March 2025 – (694 pages)

For further information, please contact:

Frank Korvemaker, M.S.M.; SAA (Hon)
Retired Construction Historian / Archivist / Archaeologist
59 Compton Road
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 2Y2
Tel: (land line) [306] 586-1405 E-Mail: fkorvemaker@accesscomm.ca

Website: http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docsxxx/people/korvemaker_f.shtml

The Beginning

1845

1845 – May 28 - William Robert Bell born in Brockville, Ontario

1851

1851 – Katherine / Anne Elwood, born in Kemptville, Ontario

(Source: 27 Dec. 2010 – e-mail from Blair MacAulay (Note: according to the 1891 census, Kate's parents were born in Ireland)

1854

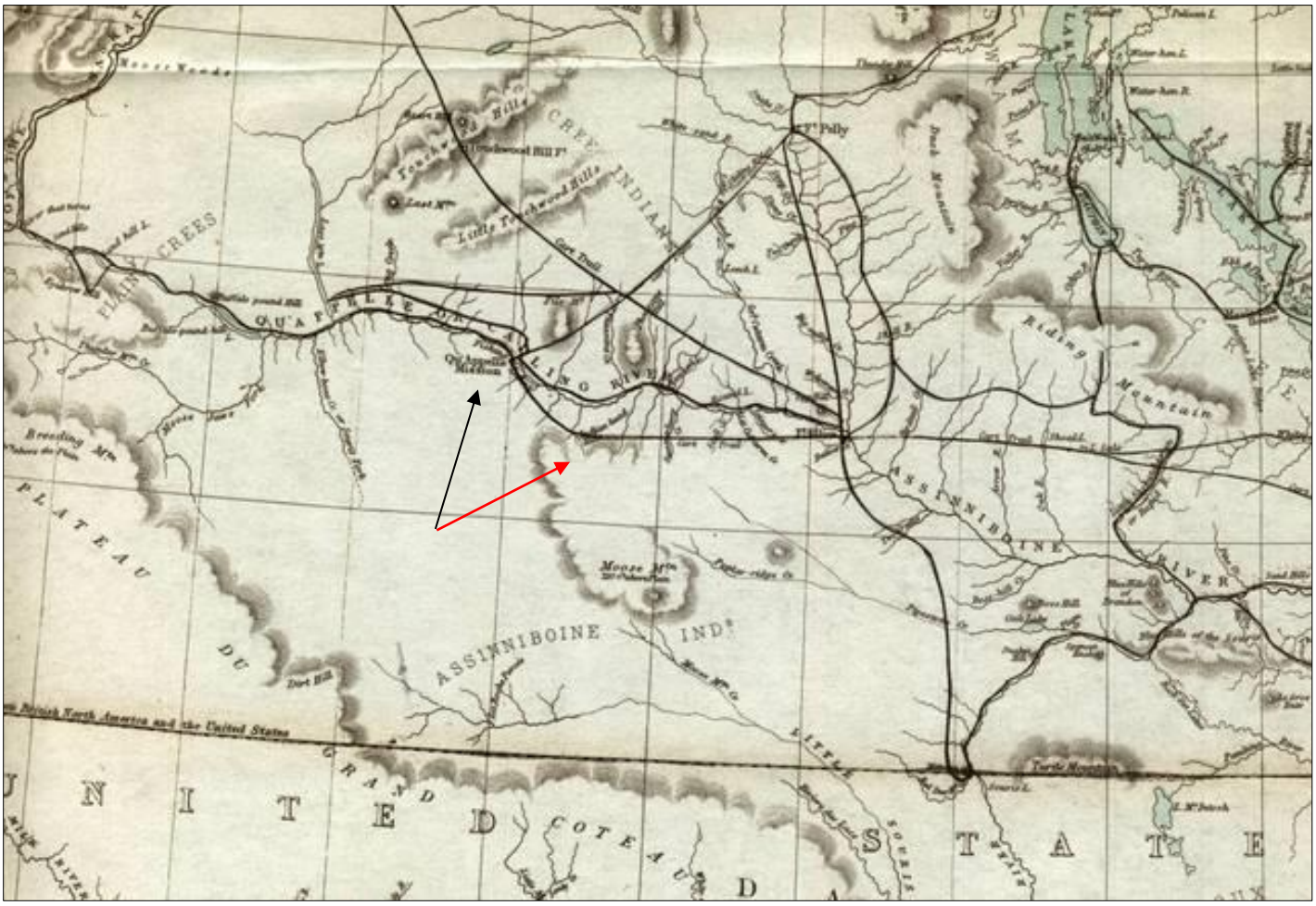
Oldest known photograph of Major Bell – age 9

Source: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan: Bell Family Collection

1858

1858 – Naming of Indian Head and first photos of the Qu'Appelle Valley

Henry Youle Hind's expedition into the Canadian interior included preparation of a map of the region, as well as a number of photographs, taken by Humphrey Lloyd Hime. Hime's photos are apparently the first images ever taken in present-day Saskatchewan. Hime took several images of the Qu'Appelle Valley, which show what it very likely looked like at the time when Major Bell arrived in the area 23 years later.



The Indian Head Hills (red arrow) are apparently first identified in this 1858 map,
with the Qu'Appelle (Anglican) Mission identified at the site of present-day Fort Qu'Appelle (black arrow).

The oldest-known photos of the Qu'Appelle Lakes and Valley – taken by H.L. Hime on July 18, 1858 as part of the Henry Youle Hind Expedition.
Source: *"Camera in the Interior: 1858: H.L. Hime, photographer, The Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expedition"*, by Richard J. Huyda, 1975.
(112 & 122 kb)

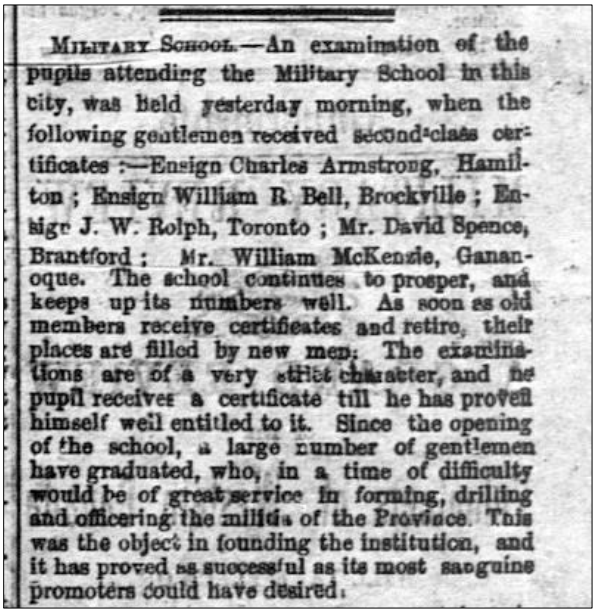
1860s

1860s – William R. (Bill) Bell was employed by G.T.R. (Grand Trunk Railway) - railway agent (?) at Brockville and Pakenham, Ontario – check for details

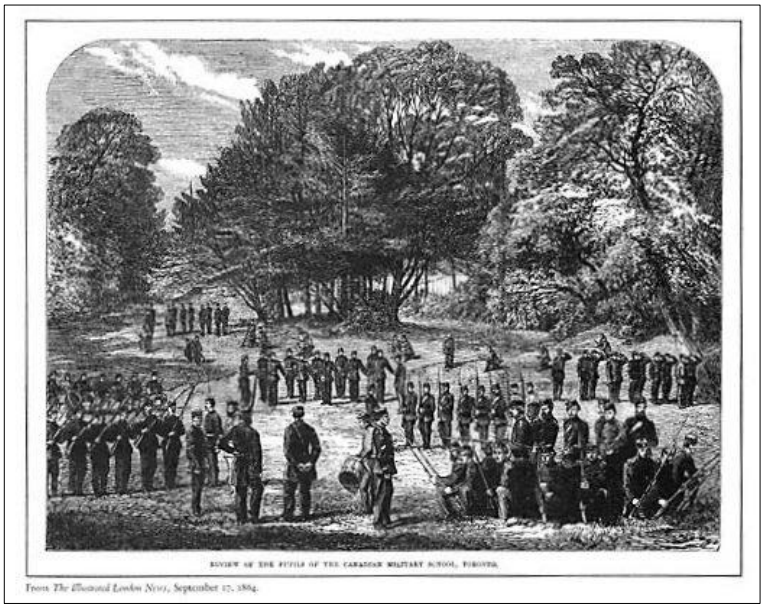
1864

1864 – June 15 – Toronto Globe - Ensign William R. Bell, of Brockville, attends Military School enlists with the Militia

(Frank's Note: Major W.R. Bell, of Brockville, was initially an Ensign when he first enlisted (June 15, 1864), and was later promoted to Captain (March 5, 1867), and then to Brevet Major on his retirement (May 21, 1875).



MILITARY SCHOOL.—An examination of the pupils attending the Military School in this city, was held yesterday morning, when the following gentlemen received second-class certificates:—Ensign Charles Armstrong, Hamilton; Ensign William R. Bell, Brockville; Ensign J. W. Rolph, Toronto; Mr. David Spence, Brantford; Mr. William McKenzie, Gananoque. The school continues to prosper, and keeps up its numbers well. As soon as old members receive certificates and retire, their places are filled by new men. The examinations are of a very strict character, and no pupil receives a certificate till he has proved himself well entitled to it. Since the opening of the school, a large number of gentlemen have graduated, who, in a time of difficulty would be of great service in forming, drilling and officering the militia of the Province. This was the object in founding the institution, and it has proved as successful as its most sanguine promoters could have desired.



REVIEW OF THE PUPILS OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY SCHOOL, TORONTO.

From *The Illustrated London News*, September 17, 1864.

LEFT: *Toronto Globe* article on Military School examinations, including Ensign William R. Bell, of Brockville, 15 June 1864 83 kb

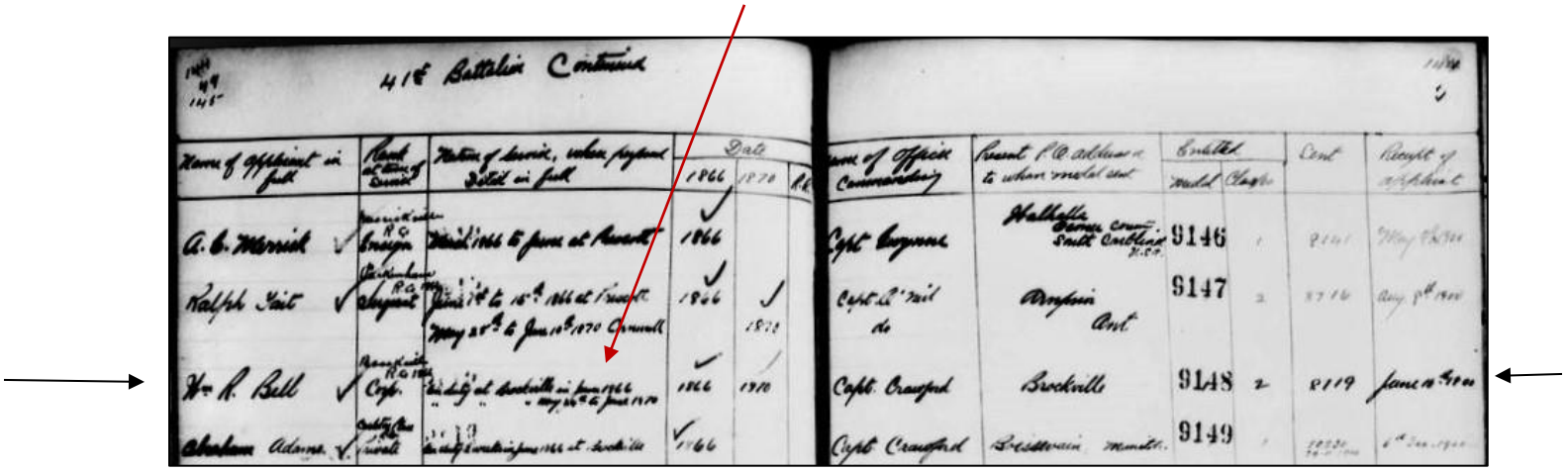
RIGHT: *Review of the Pupils of the Canadian Military School, Toronto (*source: *The Illustrated London News*, Sept. 17, 1864) 90 kb

1866

Fenian Raid (1866): Fenians is the name of the old Irish National Militia. After the Civil War in the USA, the American Fenians were bolstered by Civil War mercenaries. In need of something to occupy this large force, John O'Neil crossed the Niagara River, captured Fort Erie, and made his headquarters at Limeridge. The Fenians defeated a unit of the Canadian Militia at Ridgeway, but withdrew to the USA when a stronger force was sent to the area. President Johnson had many of the Fenians arrested. (Source: http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations/details/1)

Corporal W.R. Bell participated in both the 1866 and 1870 Fenian Raids, and was eventually awarded medals accordingly. They were sent to him on June 10, 1900. In 1912, he became eligible for a one time pension grant of $100; this was awarded to him on March 4, 1913 – three weeks after he died. He did not, apparently receive

a land grant for his military service. The document below states that Corporal Bell was "on duty at Brockville in June 1866", and that Capt. Bell was "on duty at Brockville May 24th to June 1870".



Source: Library and Archives Canada: Canada General Service Medal Register: 1866-1870.Fenian Raids, Red River, RG 9 , II, A 5, Vol. 6, p. 145-146.: https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/military-medals-1812-1969/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=15014&

1867

1867 – March 15 – William Bell appointed Captain in No. 4 Company, 2nd Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, based out of Brockville

Source: _____ – check for details

1867 – Dec. 17 – William Bell (age 22) marries Katherine Ellwood / Elwood (age 17) in Prescott, Ontario – she is the daughter of Jas. G. Elwood, of Brockville, Ontario.

(Source: 27 Dec. 2010 – e-mail, Blair MacAulay : *Livingston, Edwin A. "Leeds & Grenville Counties Marriage Register, 1858-1968", Vol. 27, 1988 (929.371373 at NYPL), page 39.i)*

NOTE: Elsewhere, her name is given as:

- Catherine A. Ellwood (1851 Canadian census) (double "l")
- Catherine A. Elwood (1861 Canadian Census)
- Katharine Bell (1871 Canadian Census)
- A. Catherin Bell (1880 USA Census) (without an "e")
- Kate A. Bell (1891 Canadian Census)

As Major Bell later Married Catherine Ormiston, his first wife will generally be referred to as "Katherine" or "Katharine" in this report.

1868

1868 – June – William and Kate's son - Sherwood Ambler Bell – born in Elizabethtown (renamed Brockville), Ontario –

27 Dec. 2010 – e-mail, Blair MacAulay (Bell an employee of G.T.R., Brockville at that time.)

1868 – Oct. 21-23 – Annual meeting of the Brockville Rifle Association, held at Brockville – shooting match.

Capt. Bell of the GTR Brigade, Brockville, placed 4th in the first match (prize: $4); and 2nd in the second match (prize: $9)

(Source: Sessional Papers (# 10), 1869, p. 70-71.)

197 kb & 238 kb

1869

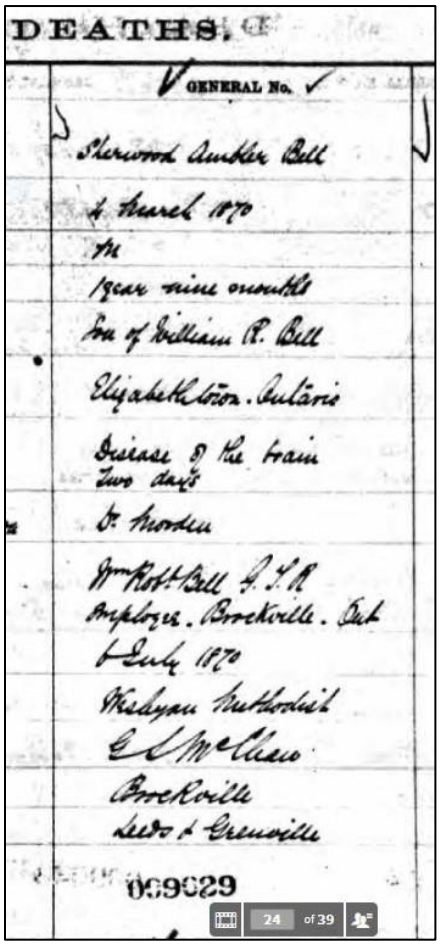
1869 – _____. Brockville Rifle Association – Rifle Match, held at Kingston.

Capt. Bell of GTR Rifles: Match 4 – All Comers - placed 3rd (prize: $5); Match # 5 Association Members – placed 8th (prize: $3); Match # 6 – Officers' Match – placed 1st(Prize: pair of boots worth $10, plus cash $2)

(Source: Sessional Papers (# 8), 1870, p. 32-33)

1870

1870 – March 4 – Sherwood Ambler Bell dies, at 1 year 9 months – lists his father - Wm. Robt. Bell - as an employee of the Grand Trunk Railway at Brockville, Ontario, and a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.


DEATHS.

GENERAL No. ✓

Sherwood Ambler Bell
4 March 1870
M
1 year nine months
Son of William R. Bell
Elizabethtown. Ontario
Disease of the brain
Two days
C. Woodcock
Wm Robt Bell G.T.R.
Employee. Brockville. Ont
4 July 1870
Wesleyan Methodist
C. McClean
Brockville
Leeds & Grenville
099629
24 of 39

(Source: Archives of Ontario; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Collection: Ms935; Series: 2, 1870 - p. 60, # 099629)

1870 – May 24 to June 1870 - Captain Bell serves in the Canadian Militia, 41st Battalion, during the Fenian Raids (Frank: see 1866 above)

Fenian Raid (1870): On 26 May 1870, O'Neil again crossed the border near Franklin, Vermont, but was forced back quickly and again arrested.

(Source: http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations/details/1)

1870 – _____ Annual Rifle Match, Brockville Rifle Association –

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 3, placed 1st (prize: $20); Match # 4, placed 4th (prize $5).

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 22-23)

1870 – _____ Rifle Match of the Metropolitan Rifle Association – held at _____

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 8, placed 4th (prize: $3)

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 34-35)

1870 – _____ Rifle Match of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association – held at _____

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 6 (Montreal Stakes), placed 11th (prize: $5)

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 44-45)

1870 – _____ Second Annual Rifle Match of the Quebec Provincial Rifle Association – held at _____

Capt Bell, GTR: Match # 8 (Frontier Stakes), placed 4th (prize: $10); Match # 9 (Strangers' Stakes) – placed 8th (prize: $5)

(Source: Sessional papers (#7), 1871, p. 46-47)

1870 – Aug. 16 - Fourth Annual Rifle Match of the Metropolitan Rifle Association, held in Ottawa

Capt. Bell: Match #3 – placed 3rd (prize: $3)

(Source: Sessional Papers (#7), 1871, p. 30-31)

1870 – Sept. 7 – *Toronto Globe* report on August shooting match

Captain Bell, a member of No. 4 Company, 2nd Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, based out of Brockville, participates in a shooting competition in Fredericton, among other things, Bell wins the Governor General's Cup plus 10 gold sovereigns.

102 kb

1870 – Oct. 11 & 12 – 7th Annual Rifle Match, Brockville Rifle Association, held at Brockville

Capt. Bell, GTR – Match # 2 – placed 3rd (prize: $4); Match # 3 – placed 1st (prize: $20); Match # 4 – placed 4th (Prize: $6)

(Source: Sessional Papers (# 7), 1871, p. 24-27)

1870 – Oct. 13-14 – Volunteer Rifle Match of the Ramsay Rifle Association, held at Almonte, Ont.

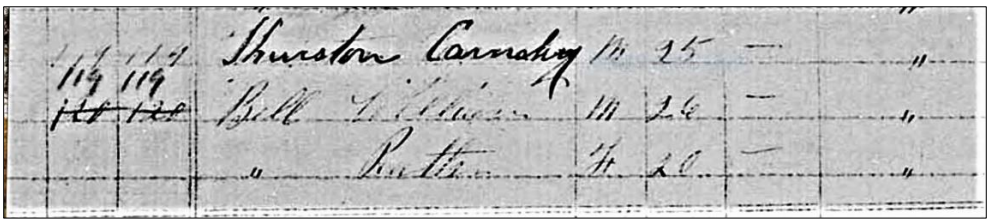
Capt. Bell, GTR – Volunteers in Uniform Match – placed 1st (prize: $20); All Comers Match: placed 2nd (prize: $10)
(Source: Sessional Papers (# 7), 1871, p. 22-23)

1871

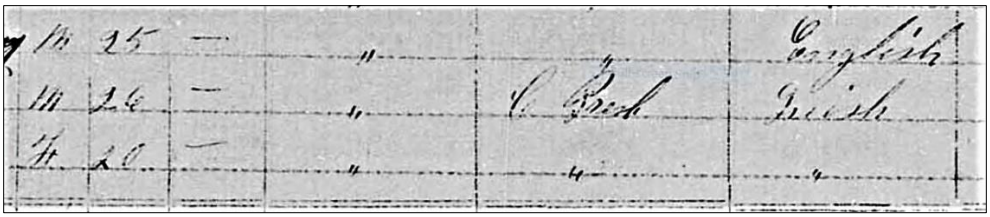
1871 – Catherine Ormiston, Major Bell's second wife, is born in England. They were married in 1897. (She was 27 on the marriage certificate – so possibly her birth date was late 1870 or early 1871.)

1871 – April 2 – Canada Census, Ontario – South Victoria District# 52; E, Verulam Sub-District

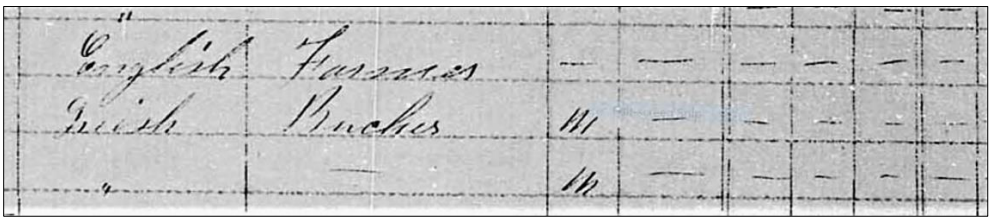
119 - William Bell (male, age 26) and Katherine (female, age 20), but born in Ireland (ditto marks at right)



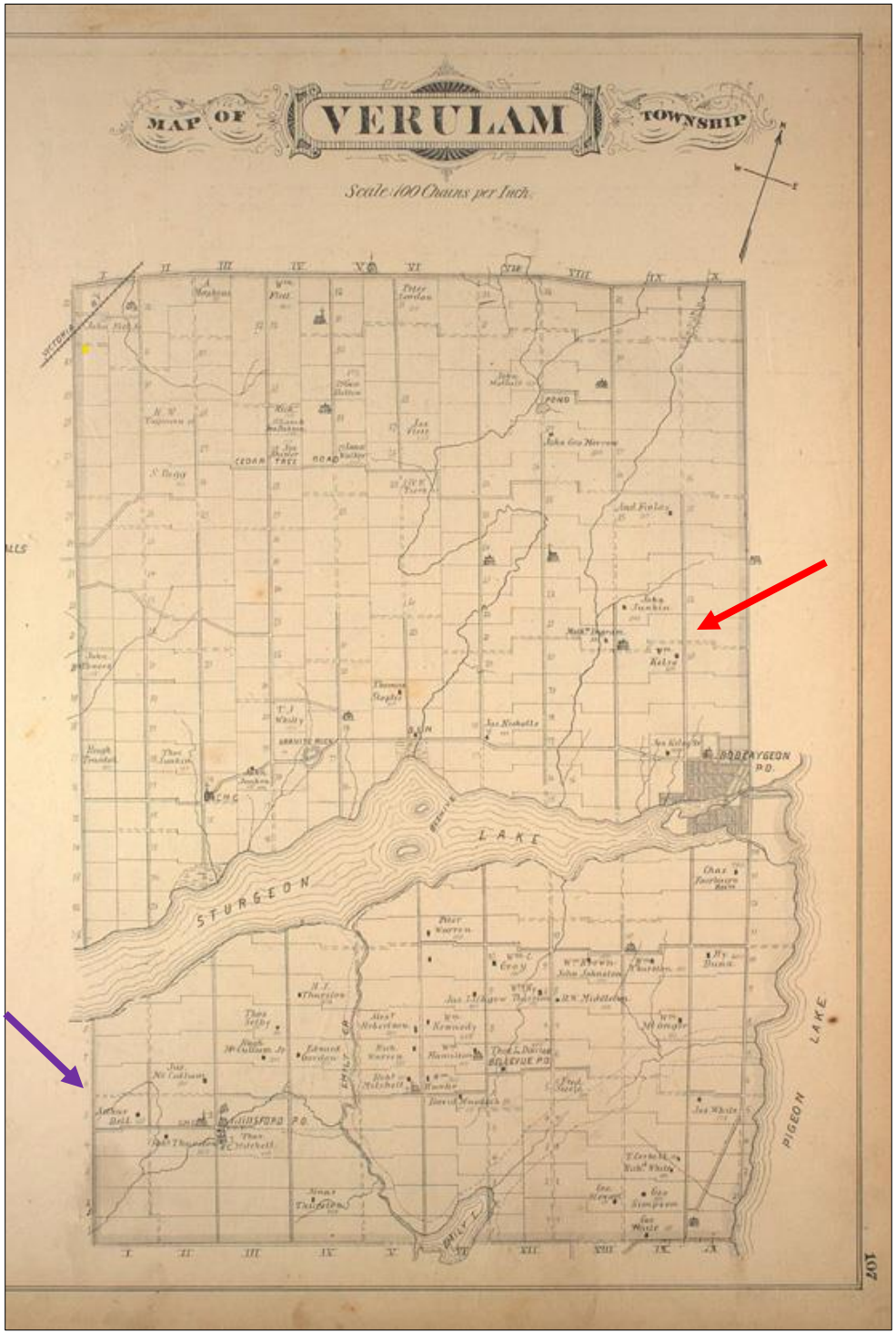
Both William and Katherine claim to be Presbyterian and of Irish ancestry



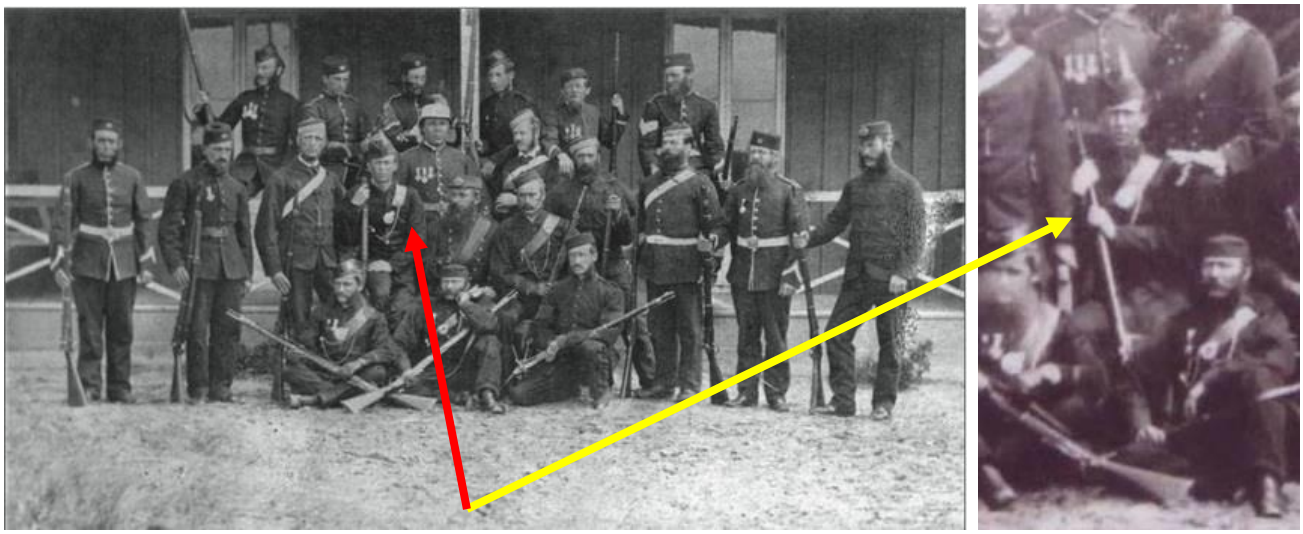
For occupation, William is listed as "Bucher?????", there is no occupation for Katherine; both are listed as "married"



Names on the 1880 Township Map for Bell (lower left – purple arrow) and Kelso (upper right – red arrow) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verulam_Township. Town of Bobcaygeon at far right, at the east end of Sturgeon Lake.



1871 – mid June – mid July - Capt. Bell travels with the Canadian Militia contingent to England for the Wimbledon Rifle matches of the British National Rifle Association.



Capt. Bell with the First Canadian Team at Wimbledon, England – probably in the uniform of the No. 4 Company, 2nd Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, as each participant wore his home uniform.
Source: _____ – check for details

The members of the 1871 Ontario Team pictured are:

Capt WR Bell	2nd Canada
Lt J Burch	2nd Battalion
Capt WH Cotton	Ottawa
Capt D Gibson	Toronto Garrison Artillery
Sgt Maj HJ Harris	Ottawa
Pte WT Jennings	2nd Battalion
Sgt RG Kincaid	14th Battalion
Lt J Little	13th Battalion *(Adjutant)*
Pte J Mason	13th Battalion
Capt A McCleneghan	22nd Battalion
Sgt Dr AA McDonald	2nd Battalion
Sgt T McMullen	10th Battalion
Sgt Maj EA McNachtan	Cobourg Garrison Artillery
Pte G Murison	13th Battalion
CSgt R Omand	13th Battalion
Pte Dr J Oronhyatekha	49th Battalion
Sgt F Sache	13th Battalion
Lt Col JA Skinner	13th Battalion *(Captain)*
Ens T Wastie	7th Battalion
Capt F Werner	14th Battalion
Sgt H Wilkinson	2nd Canada

Source: *undetermined* *(151 kb)*

ONTARIO

Captain: Lt Col JA Skinner
Adjutant/Coach: Lt J Little

Capt WH Cotton	22	19	23	64
Lt J Burch	21	23	18	62
Sgt RG Kincaid	17	21	22	60
Capt F Werner	12	26	21	59
Capt WR Bell	15	22	19	56
Sgt H Wilkinson	20	22	12	54
Sgt Maj HJ Harris	14	23	17	54
Sgt Dr AA McDonald	17	20	16	53
Capt D Gibson	14	21	18	53
Lt J Little	19	13	19	51
Sgt Maj EA McNachtan	15	20	16	51
Sgt T McMullen	12	23	16	51
Ens T Wastie	17	15	18	50
Sgt F Sache	13	20	17	50
CSgt R Omand	12	22	16	50
Pte WT Jennings	8	22	20	50
Pte Dr J Oronhyatekha	12	21	16	49
Capt A McCleneghan	11	19	16	46
Pte J Mason	10	17	19	46
Pte G Murison	8	22	15	45
	289	411	354	1054

Capt. Bell placed 5th in the score ranking.
Source: e-mail from Michelle: 3 Jan. 2012 *(70 kb)*

Also: Dr. Oronhyatekha: Security, Justice, and Equality, by Keith Jamieson, Michelle A. Hamilton, p. 45
https://books.google.ca/books?id=Xp6DQcMHY3gC&pg=PT112&lpg=PT112&dq=canadian+militia+at+wimbledon+,+1871&source=bl&ots=nWsk8YQ3eJ&sig=nrDqS4fmV80KOaduNQkO7yf04Bo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiHn-mznv3TAhVM6mMKHQ3QDOgQ6AEIKDAB#v=onepage&q=canadian%20militia%20at%20wimbledon%20%2C%201871&f=false

1871 – Aug. 25 – *Kingston Daily News*, p. 2 – Bell and accusations again Capt. Skinner

"DOMINION OF CANADA . . . . . Dr. Oronhyateka and Captain Bell, of the Wimbledon Team, are said to confirm the charges against Lieut.-Col. Skinner by Captain McClenaghan. We wait for the defence of the gallant Colonel before offering an opinion as to the difficulty."

1871 – November – Capt. Bell retires from No. 4 Company, 2nd Battalion Rifles, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, based out of Brockville.

1872

No Information for this year

1873

1873 – May 30 – *Almonte Gazette*, p. 2 – Bell on Pakenham cricket team

"**Cricket** -Editor: *Almonte Gazette*: On Saturday last, the 24th inst., a interesting game of cricket was played in this village between the Commercial Club of Ottawa and the Pakenham Club, resulting in a victory for the latter. . . . . A. Hilliard, Secty. P.C.C."

The following is the score:

OTTAWA

1st Innings		2nd Innings.	
McFarlane, b Burns	28	b Burns	9
Graburn, b Moore	0	c Hilliard, b Burns	0
Payne, run out	1	c Graham, b Moore	0
Kerr, b Moore	0	Not out	2
Kavanagh, c Graham	15	c Hilliard, b Burns	13
Adams, l b w, b Burns	1	l b w, b Burns	1
Birmingham, b Burns	0	Run out	1
Palen, c Bell	0	c Graham, b Moore	0
Connor W., Hit wicket	1	c Graham, b Moore	3
Hunton, not out	5	Hit wicket	0
Connor J., b Moore	5	c Cowan J. Sr.,	0
Byes	2		2
Wides	3		0
Total	61		31
		1st Innings	61
Total, both innings			92

PAKENHAM

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Hilliard, b Payne	1		
McLeod, b McFarlane	4	c Hunton	0
Dunnett, b McFarlane	4	Not out	13
Cunningham, c Graburn	4	b Payne	2
Bell, b McFarlane	0	b McFarlane	0
Cowan, J. Sr., c Kerr	2	b Payne	1
Moore, c Kerr	17	b McFarlane	0
Graham, c Kavanagh	2	Not out	7
Burns, l b w, b McFarlane	2		
Dr. Law, stp Payne	0		
Cowan J. Jr., not out	4	c Palen, b McFarlane	3
Byes	10		1
Leg Byes	1		0
Wides	14		1
Total	65	Total	28
		1st Innings	65
Total, both innings			93

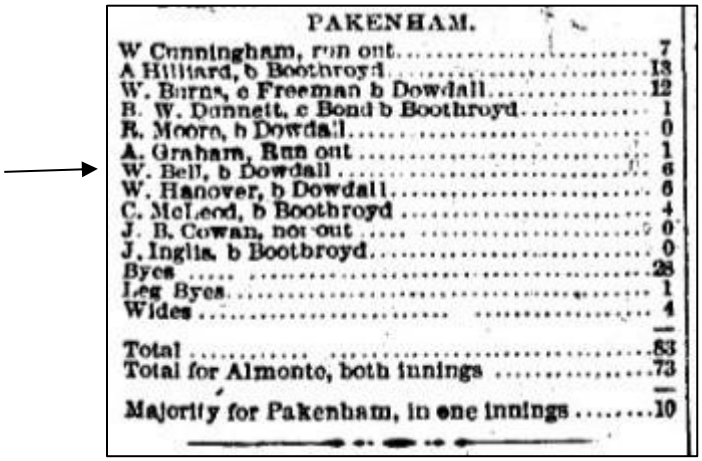
Majority for Pakenham 1, with 4 wickets to spare.

A. HILLIARD,

1873 – July 4 – *Almonte Gazette,* p. 2 – Mrs. Bell of Pakenham sings with Mrs. Dickson at Promenade Concert

> "**Promenade Concert** – On the evening of the first of July – Dominion Day – a promenade concert was given in the drill hall shed in aid of the organ fund of St. Andrew's church. . . . .The following was the programme: . . . . song, Mrs. Dickson and Mrs. Bell, of Pakenham; . . . "

1873 – July 11 – *Almonte Gazette* – p. 5 – W. Bell on Pakenham cricket team



PAKENHAM.

W Cunningham, run out	7
A Hilliard, b Boothroyd	13
W. Burns, c Freeman b Dowdall	12
B. W. Dunnett, c Bond b Boothroyd	1
R. Moore, b Dowdall	0
A. Graham, Run out	1
W. Bell, b Dowdall	6
W. Hanover, b Dowdall	6
C. McLeod, b Boothroyd	4
J. B. Cowan, not out	0
J. Inglis, b Bootbroyd	0
Byes	28
Leg Byes	1
Wides	4
Total	83
Total for Almonte, both innings	73
Majority for Pakenham, in one innings	10

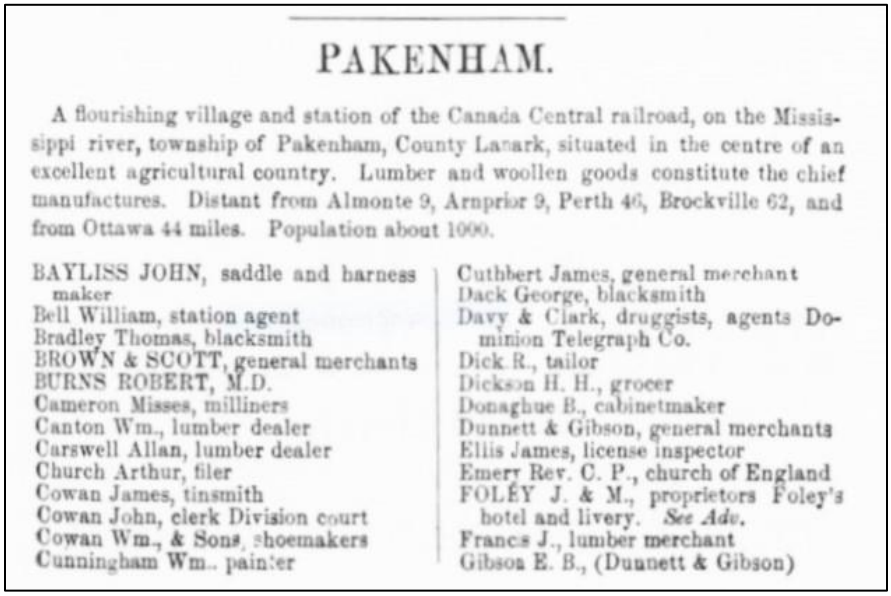
1873 – July 25 – *Almonte Gazette* – W.R. Bell participates in Pakenham foot race

> "**PAKENHAM NEWS** – (From our own Correspondent) Foot Race. This morning, at half past six o'clock, two of our amateur athletes, Messrs. C. McLeod and A. Hilliard, ran a foot race on the race course near the village, distance 200yds, $5 a side, the former backed by Mr. John Cowan, the latter by our sporting Mr. W.R. Bell. Though after a manly struggle for victory, McLeod had to acknowledge himself beaten, yet it is no disgrace to be out done by one who can so well acquit himself as his rival. The starter was Mr. Bell; the judges: Messrs. B.W. Dunnett and R. Shilson. It was a very even race till near the close, when Hilliard – putting on a spurt came in winner by 5 yards."

1873 – Aug. 1 – W.R. Bell appointed Capt. for the 41st Brockville Battalion of Rifles.

> (Source: *The Army List* , Nov. 1875 - p. 827)

1873 – August – *City of Ottawa Directory: 1873-1874,* Irwin & Co., p. 183 – William Bell listed as a station agent in the Pakenham Directory -



PAKENHAM.

A flourishing village and station of the Canada Central railroad, on the Mississippi river, township of Pakenham, County Lanark, situated in the centre of an excellent agricultural country. Lumber and woollen goods constitute the chief manufactures. Distant from Almonte 9, Arnprior 9, Perth 46, Brockville 62, and from Ottawa 44 miles. Population about 1000.

BAYLISS JOHN, saddle and harness maker
Bell William, station agent
Bradley Thomas, blacksmith
BROWN & SCOTT, general merchants
BURNS ROBERT, M.D.
Cameron Misses, milliners
Canton Wm., lumber dealer
Carswell Allan, lumber dealer
Church Arthur, filer
Cowan James, tinsmith
Cowan John, clerk Division court
Cowan Wm., & Sons, shoemakers
Cunningham Wm., painter
Cuthbert James, general merchant
Dack George, blacksmith
Davy & Clark, druggists, agents Dominion Telegraph Co.
Dick R., tailor
Dickson H. H., grocer
Donaghue B., cabinetmaker
Dunnett & Gibson, general merchants
Ellis James, license inspector
Emery Rev. C. P., church of England
FOLEY J. & M., proprietors Foley's hotel and livery. *See Adv.*
Francs J., lumber merchant
Gibson E. B., (Dunnett & Gibson)

1874

No Information for this year

1875

1875 – May 21 -

Captain Bell resumes his military career when appointed Captain and Adjutant of 41st Brockville Battalion of Rifles (later named the Brockville Rifles). Also immediately appointed to rank of Brevet Major due to his previous service in the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade. (Source undetermined) For the rest of his life (38 years) he is known as Major Bell.

Also Gazette in Canada: (Source: *Canada Gazette*, May 22, 1875, p. 1547: - right column, centre

> "To Be Major: Captain and Adjutant William Robert Bell, V.B., 41st Battalion, he having served the qualifying period of five years as Captain in 2nd Battalion, G.T.R.B."
>
> (NOTE: V.B. means "Volunteer Battalion" in the British Army.)

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?image_id_nbr=84421&document_id_nbr=3838&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03

1875 – May 25 - The *Army List* for Nov 1875 p. 827, states that Bell was appointed Adjutant on this date.

1875 – Sept. 8 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 4 – Major Bell hits four bull's eyes at Rideau range, Ottawa.

"THE DOMINION RIFLE MATCHES. The attendance at the Rideau range yesterday afternoon was quite large and considerable interest was manifested by the spectators in the shooting. A number of ladies were on the ground and several carriages drove out towards the close of the afternoon. The firing at the 500 yards range in the All-Comers Match was not finished until after five o'clock , consequentially no other match was commenced. . . . . [next day] The company then dispersed, and firing at the 400 yards range commenced. During the speeches after luncheon several highly complimentary allusions were made to the Brunel targets.

The Pool Target at 200 yards has been kept busy to-day. Nothing but bull's eyes count and a charge of 10 cents a shot is levied. At the close of the meeting the money is to be distributed among those who make scores in proportion to the number of bull's eyes made. This morning Capt. Thomas Richmond made four bull's eyes out of five shots, having previously fired five shots without scoring. Major Bell, of Brockville, made four bull's eyes out of ten shots."

1876

1876 – June 25-26 - Battle of the Little Big Horn (Custer vs. Sitting Bull) - 475 miles from Indian Head

– (EFK – This battle likely has a direct effect on Major Bell's decision to build the round stone barn at Indian Head to replicate the basic designs of a Martello Tower.)

1877

No Information for this year

1878

No Information for this year

1879

1879 – April 8 – *The Toronto Globe and Mail*

Globe and Mail carried a list of Canadians who offered their services to the British Forces with Major Bell promising "to raise 100 men".

1879 – Bell-Kelso Farm established in Hallock, Minnesota (known in Hallock as the Kelso-Bell Farm) – check for details

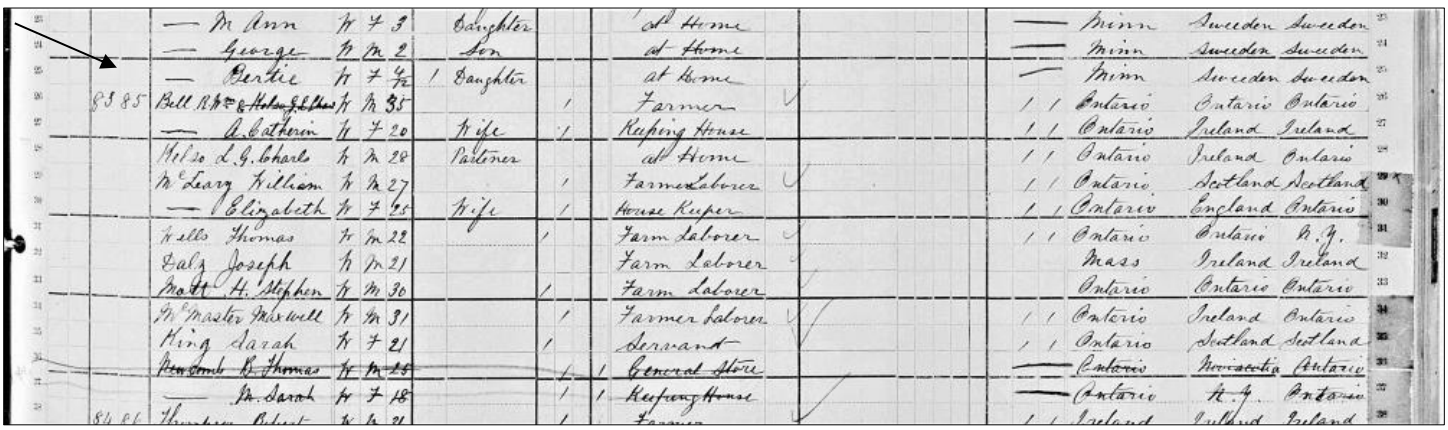
1879 – Aug. 21 - *Kane Weekly Blade, Pennsylvania* – Bell in rifle competition – Hallock or Kane?

"Major Bell, of the Brockville Rifle Club, in a private match, made, at 200, 500, and 600 yards, 28, 32, 32, a total of 93, one of the largest scores ever made in the Dominion with a Snider rifle."

1880

1880 – April 23 – Major Bell retires as Adjutant from the 41st Brockville Battalion of Rifles, and retained his rank as a Brevet Major.

1880 – June - USA Census – Minnesota – Kittson – Township 161, Range 49 – Edition 215



William and Katherine listed as resident at Hallock, Minnesota , entries # 26 and # 27, of 42 entries. (265 kb) Data recorded include:

- Bell, R. Wm. – age 35 – profession - Farmer
- Catherin (with no "e" at the end of Catherin) – age 20 – relationship - wife – keeping house
- L.G. Charles Kelso is entry # 28: age 28, profession: relationship – partner

(EFK - Kelso and the Bells come from Brockville Ontario, Kelso's father and Catherin's parents are both from Ireland; while Bell's parents and Kelso's mother are from Ontario. It is possible that the other people listed immediately below their names (# 29 to 35) are farm employees, as they are listed as farm labourers, housekeepers and servants.)

Source: https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBK-45?mode=g&i=1&wc=QZ24-ZJQ%3A1589406338%2C1589407330%2C1589407338%2C1589395553%3Fcc%3D1417683&cc=1417683

1880 – August - Town of Hallock established - W.R. Bell elected first mayor of Hallock

"Hotel Hallock became at once the center of the new town. Most of the public business was transacted there, and on August 18, 1880, the first town meeting of the Town of Hallock was held there and formal organization of the township completed. The following were elected town officers: W. R. Bell, Charles Hallock and C.J. McCollom, supervisors, of which W.R. Bell was the chairman; C.H. Pelan, town clerk; Henry Graham, treasurer; Peter Daley and John Forbes, justice of the peace; Pat McCabe and Henry Hale, constables; Eric Norland, roadmaster; J. Lindgren, assessor; M.A. Holther, poundmaster."

(Source: *History of the Red River Valley*, 1909, p. 938 https://archive.org/stream/historyofredrive02chicuoft#page/938/mode/2up)

1881

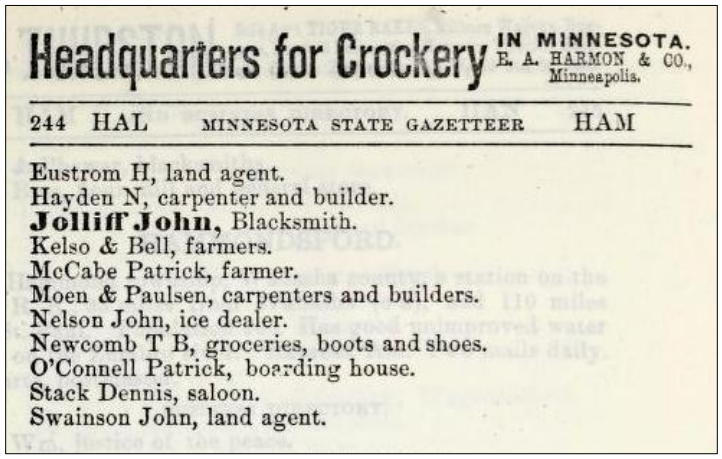
1881 – Bell appointed to first grand jury in Kittson County, Minnesota:

"Annual terms were held thereafter until the year 1903. . . . . The first grand jury summoned for this county consisted of the following: J. Peter Johnson . . . . .W.R. Bell, and D.F. Brawley."

(Source: Source: History of the Red River Valley, 1909, p. 945

https://archive.org/stream/historyofredrive02chicuoft#page/n447/mode/2up)

1880-81 – *Minnesota State Directory* listings for Hallock include this reference to the Kelso-Bell farm:



Headquarters for Crockery IN MINNESOTA. E. A. HARMON & CO., Minneapolis.

244 HAL MINNESOTA STATE GAZETTEER HAM

Eustrom H, land agent.
Hayden N, carpenter and builder.
Jolliff John, Blacksmith.
Kelso & Bell, farmers.
McCabe Patrick, farmer.
Moen & Paulsen, carpenters and builders.
Nelson John, ice dealer.
Newcomb T B, groceries, boots and shoes.
O'Connell Patrick, boarding house.
Stack Dennis, saloon.
Swainson John, land agent.

(41 kb)

(Source: https://archive.org/stream/minnesotanorthso21unse#page/n629/mode/2up)

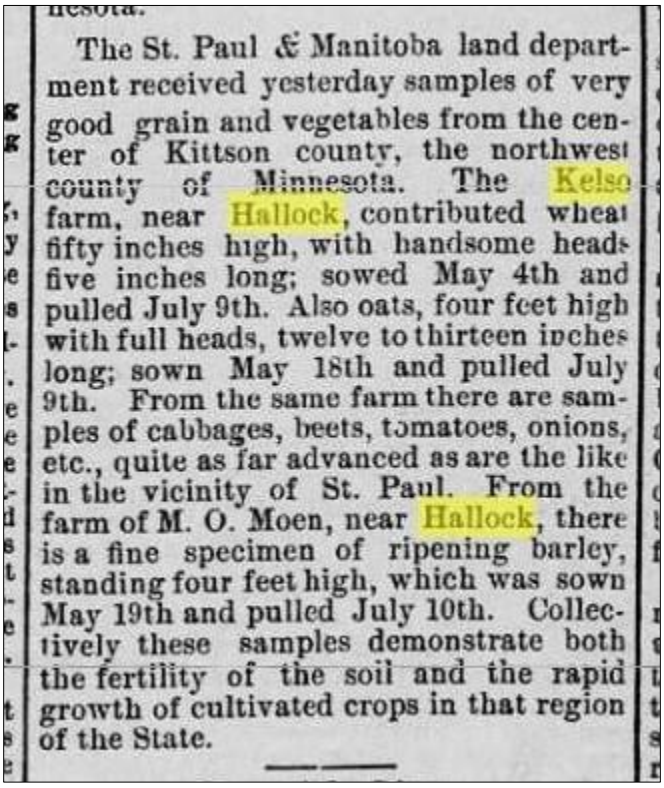
1881- June 21 – *St. Paul Daily Globe, Minnesota* - description of the Kelso-Bell Farm at Hallock

"**The Red River Valley -** Col. Uline, while he was at Hallock, visited the 5,000 acre farm of Kelso & Bell, on which 1,000 acres is seeded to grain, mostly wheat, now averaging not less than eight inches high. The company is breaking its land this season with four breaking teams, and expects to turn over 400 acres this season ready for deeding next spring. The farm buildings are large and substantially put up, and in all appointments creditable to the taste, judgement and enterprise of Messrs. Kelso & Bell. But the garden on this big farm was more of a surprise to Col. Uline than was its 1,000-acre wheat field. This garden contains 1,500 cabbage plants, now heading, and radishes, lettuce, peas, onions, spinach, watermelons, muskmelons , squashes, potatoes, corn, etc., most of which are well along for the season, and already in table use. Messrs. Kelso & Bell have also amply stocked their farm with the best blooded stock obtainable in Canada, and all through are setting a good example to the farmers of the valley."

1881 – 25 June - *St. Paul Daily Globe, Minnesota* - correction to Kelso Farm crop and sulky plow report – no reference to Major Bell

"**IRON AND WATRER WAYS** – Through error of the types the other day, in this column, the wheat stand on the Kelso farm near Hallock was understated by ten inches. A letter received at the St. Paul & Manitoba company's land office yesterday states that it now stands twenty inches high, and remarks also that seven sulky plows are running on the farm turning over more land for seeding next year."

1881 – July 14 - *St. Paul Daily Globe, Minnesota* - Kelso Farm crop report – again, no reference to Major Bell



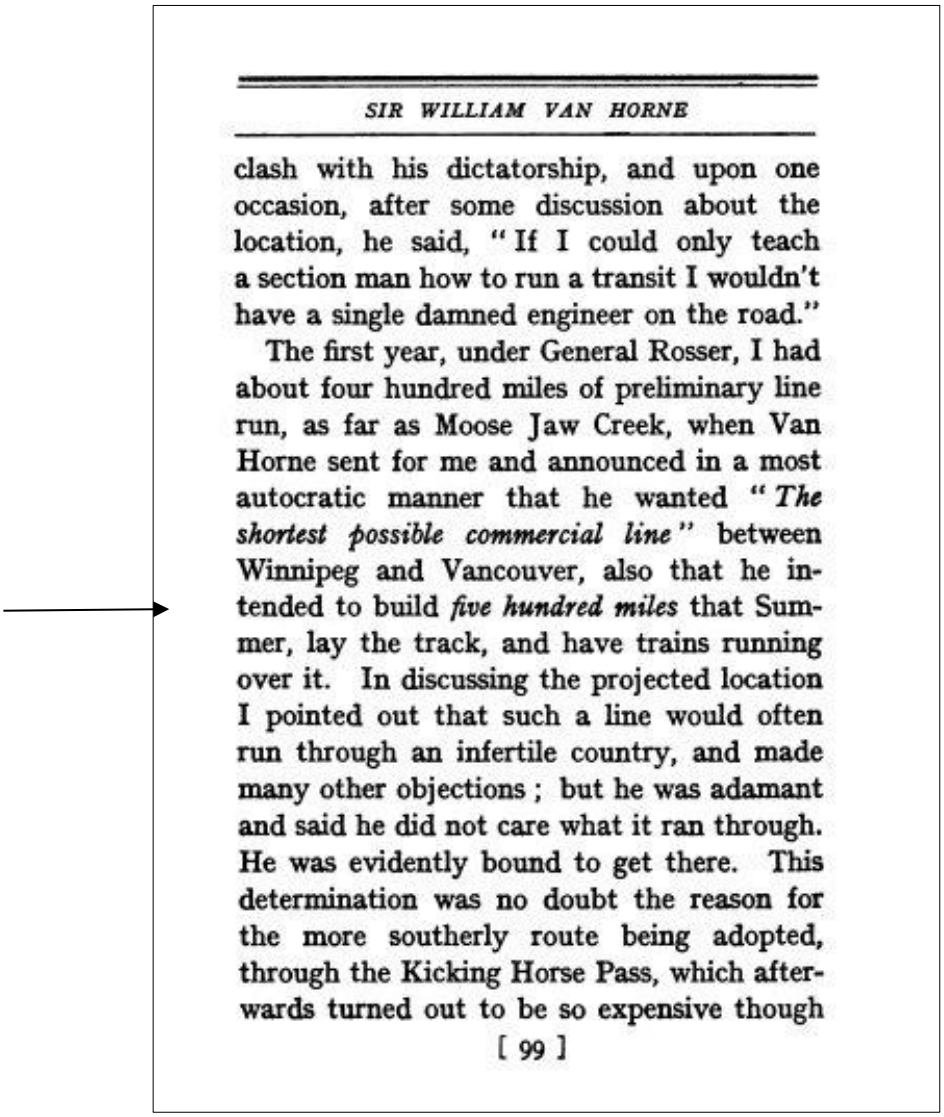
The St. Paul & Manitoba land department received yesterday samples of very good grain and vegetables from the center of Kittson county, the northwest county of Minnesota. The Kelso farm, near Hallock, contributed wheat fifty inches high, with handsome heads five inches long; sowed May 4th and pulled July 9th. Also oats, four feet high with full heads, twelve to thirteen inches long; sown May 18th and pulled July 9th. From the same farm there are samples of cabbages, beets, tomatoes, onions, etc., quite as far advanced as are the like in the vicinity of St. Paul. From the farm of M. O. Moen, near Hallock, there is a fine specimen of ripening barley, standing four feet high, which was sown May 19th and pulled July 10th. Collectively these samples demonstrate both the fertility of the soil and the rapid growth of cultivated crops in that region of the State.

149 kb

[FRANK: this second lack of a reference to Major Bell for the Kelso-Bell farm could indicate that the partnership had dissolved by the summer of 1881; however, Charles Kelso was a director of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, so the relationship between the two men likely continued to be amicable. HOWEVER, in the Oct. 15, 1881 issue of the *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, Minnesota), p.4, that newspaper still refers to the Kelso-Bell farm.]

1881 – CPR Preliminary Survey [Frank's Note: In 1881 the CPR ran a preliminary survey through the proposed southern route, with J.H.E. Secretan as part of the Survey Party. This fact might have been a reason for Bell establishing a business relationship and friendship with Secretan during Bell's stay in the West. With a preliminary survey staked out, it is likely that Bell would have had no trouble following this route to wherever he wanted to establish his farm. Also: Secretan was born in Hackney, London, England in 1851. Around 1869-70 he moved to Sherbrooke, Quebec, where from 24 May until 5 June 1870 he served part-time with the local Militia – 58th Battalion. (Source: e-mail from Bill Pinfold, England, 4 Feb. 2024)]

(Source: https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b280842;view=2up;seq=8 *Canada's Great Highway*, by Secretan, 1924, page 99)



SIR WILLIAM VAN HORNE

clash with his dictatorship, and upon one occasion, after some discussion about the location, he said, "If I could only teach a section man how to run a transit I wouldn't have a single damned engineer on the road."

The first year, under General Rosser, I had about four hundred miles of preliminary line run, as far as Moose Jaw Creek, when Van Horne sent for me and announced in a most autocratic manner that he wanted "*The shortest possible commercial line*" between Winnipeg and Vancouver, also that he intended to build *five hundred miles* that Summer, lay the track, and have trains running over it. In discussing the projected location I pointed out that such a line would often run through an infertile country, and made many other objections; but he was adamant and said he did not care what it ran through. He was evidently bound to get there. This determination was no doubt the reason for the more southerly route being adopted, through the Kicking Horse Pass, which afterwards turned out to be so expensive though

[99]

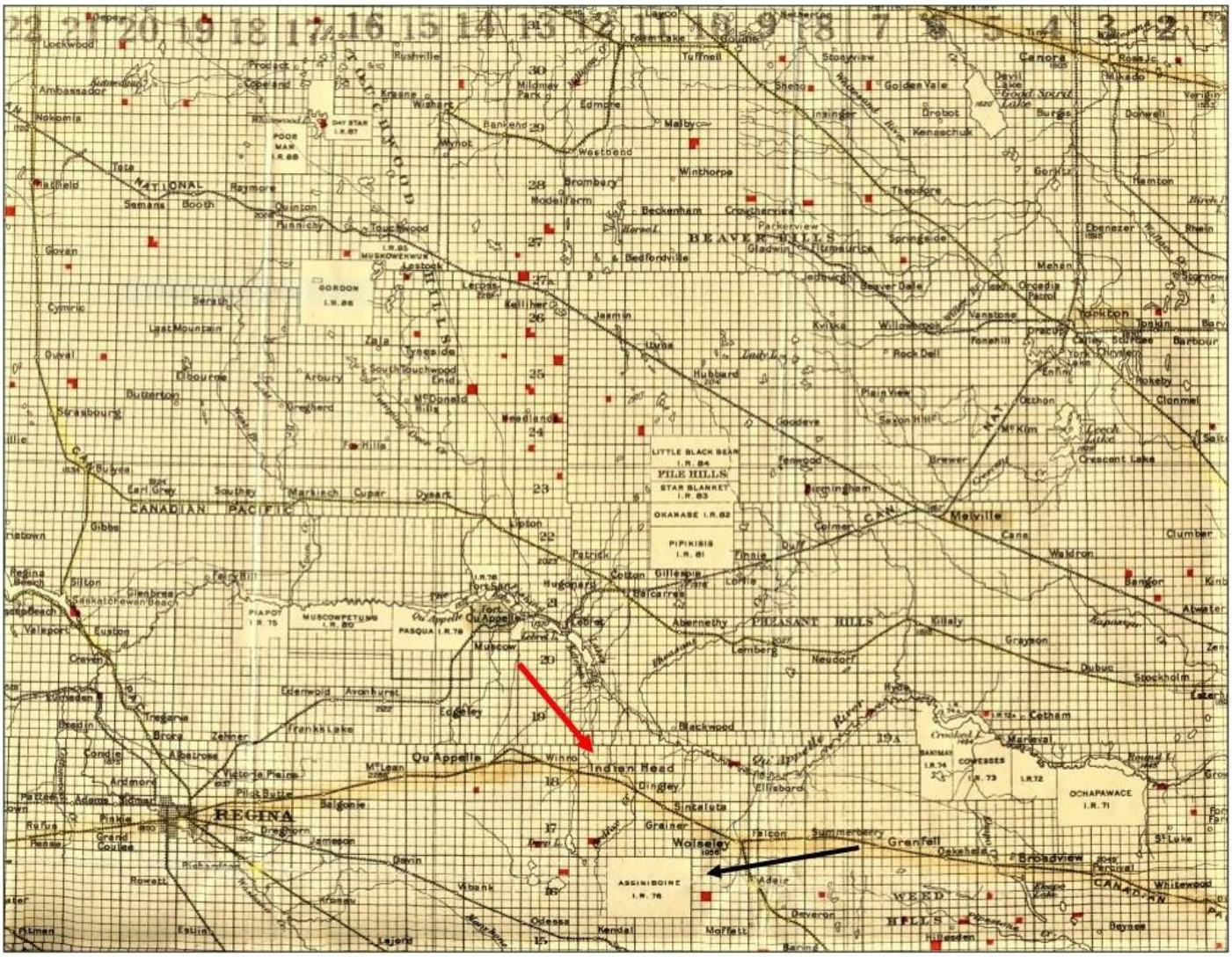
(100 kb)

1881 CPR Survey by Secretan

1881 – Selection of Indian Head region for the location of the Bell Farm

[Frank's Note: It appears that Tom Routledge and /or Major Bell went out in 1881 to search for the best location for the Bell Farm. In light of the amount of money being invested, it makes sense that Major Bell would want to see the land personally, but also that he would take along several competent people to help advise him on what lands to acquire, and what natural resources he could use to help build and /or operate the farm, including: water, wood, stone and clay. The party likely included a surveyor (perhaps Henry Carre who prepared the Bell Farm survey in 1882) and perhaps an Indigenous or Métis guide familiar with the region. He likely also acquired some CPR maps prepared in 1881 or assistance in terms of locating his farm in such a manner that the CPR crossed near the centre of his projected property.]

(In a biography for Routledge, it states that: "He located the land for the great Bell Farm and afterwards became general superintendent of the same, which position he filled for two years." http://www.archive.org/stream/canadianalbummen03cochuoft#page/142/mode/2up)


REGINA
Qu'Appelle
Indian Head
Moosomin
Edgeley
Blackwood
Wolseley
Grenfell
Melville
Broadview
Yorkton
Canora
Esterhazy
Kamsack
Kelvington
Watrous
Lumsden
Craven
Lipton
Strasbourg
Balgonie
Pilot Butte
Fort Qu'Appelle
Abernethy
Grayson
Whitewood
Wapella
Carlyle
Oxbow
Estevan
Weyburn
Moosomin
Kipling

1882

1882 – March 14 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 7 – Major Bell in Ottawa

> "**OTTAWA** – Special to The Sun. **A Big Land Syndicate.** Major Bell, of Brockville, arrived here for the purpose of purchasing 32,000 acres in the Qu'Appelle district. The same syndicate have purchased 32,000 acres from the C.P.R. Co."

1882 – March 24 – Application submitted for legal incorporation of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Ltd.

1882 List of Provisional Directors and Applicants for
establishment of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Limited)

12 Applicants for Letters Patent for est. the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Limited)

The first 6 are provisional directors

William Robert Bell
John Northwood
Hermann Joseph Eberts
Robert Crawford
William Northwood
Francis Carmichael Bruce, of the city of Hamilton, seedsman
Thomas Caldwell Elwood
Edmund Burritt
William Ryan Thistle
Robert Zacheus Rogers
Charles Frederick Houghton
John Fisher Wood, town of Brockville, barrister

Salter M. Jarvis – solicitor for the applicants
Chatham, Ontario – 24 March 1882

1882 – March 24 – *Almonte Gazette* – First newspaper report of the Bell Farm's establishment and his railway station work at Pakenham.

> "A Great Farm. – Major Bell, of Brockville, formerly station agent at Pakenham, had made arrangements with the department of the Interior for the purchase of 32,000 acres of land on the Qu'Appelle on behalf of a syndicate of which he is a member. This, with 32,000 additional acres bought from the Pacific Railway Syndicate, they intend to turn into a mammoth farm, which will be twelve miles long and six miles wide."

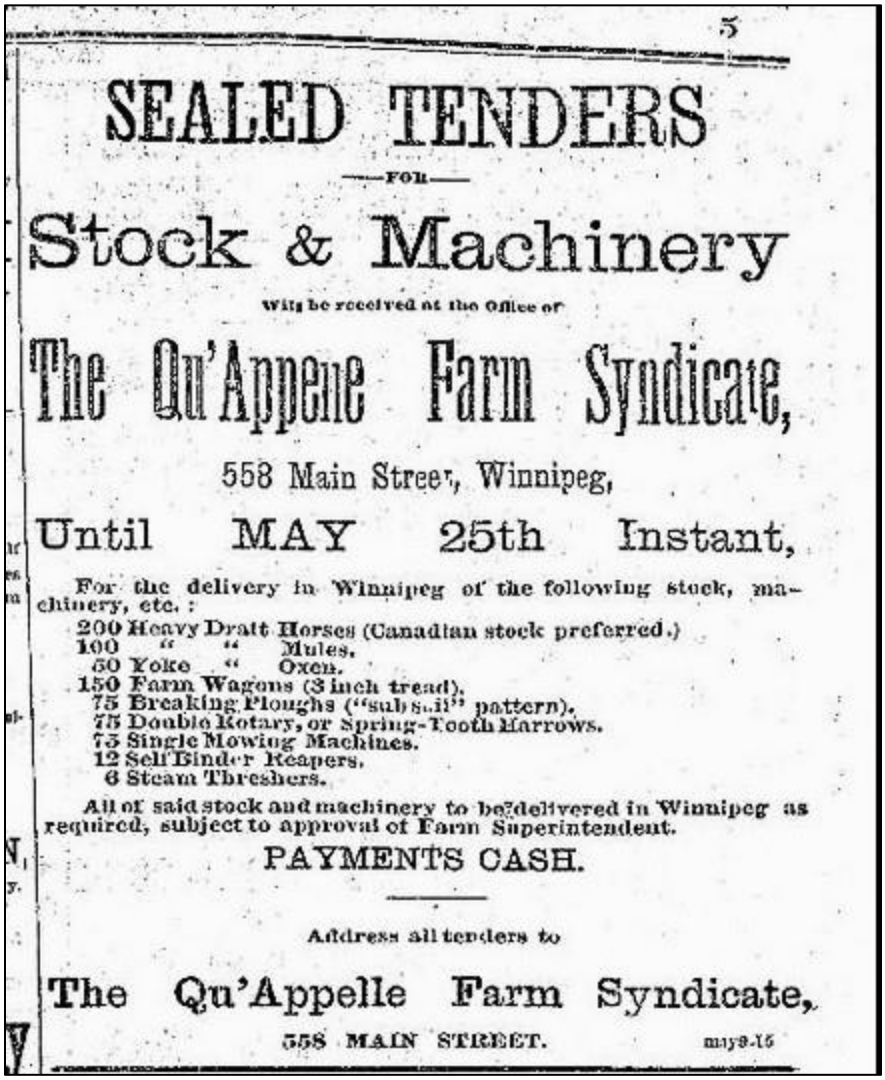
1882 – May 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell staying at the Grand Union Hotel in Winnipeg

"**HOTEL ARRIVALS** . . . . . Grand Union: . . . . . Major Bell, Brockville; . . . . ."

1882 – May 3 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun,* p. 3 – Major Bell stays over in Winnipeg

"**STRANGERS IN THE CITY** . . . Grand Union: . . . . . Major Bell, Brockville; . . . ."

1882 – 11 May – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 5 – Tender to supply the Bell Farm before the trek to Indian Head got underway. (published May 9 to 15)



5

SEALED TENDERS

—FOR—

Stock & Machinery

Will be received at the Office of

The Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate,

558 Main Street, Winnipeg,

Until MAY 25th Instant,

For the delivery in Winnipeg of the following stock, machinery, etc.:

200 Heavy Draft Horses (Canadian stock preferred.)
100 " " Mules.
50 Yoke " Oxen.
150 Farm Wagons (3 inch tread).
75 Breaking Ploughs ("sub soil" pattern).
75 Double Rotary, or Spring-Tooth Harrows.
75 Single Mowing Machines.
12 Self Binder Reapers.
6 Steam Threshers.

All of said stock and machinery to be delivered in Winnipeg as required, subject to approval of Farm Superintendent.

PAYMENTS CASH.

Address all tenders to

The Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate,

558 MAIN STREET. may9-15

101 kb

1882 – May 12 – The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Ltd. legally incorporated by the Canadian government.

1882 - about May 25 – Major Bell and his caravan of people, animals and supplies leave Flat Creek - the end of steel - and began a slow march towards the future townsite of Indian Head. The caravan was about three miles long. Flat Creek (near present day Oak Lake) was at about the half-way point between Winnipeg and Indian Head. The trip to the Bell Farm would have been similar to what Major Bell organized in 1885 to deliver supplies to the government troops heading to Batoche to confront Louis Riel and his Métis and Indian forces during the North-West Rebellion of 1885.

This point, as the basis of supplies, has suddenly become a busy centre, and already buildings are being rushed up as a consequent impetus from the forwarding that here goes on. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is chief transport officer here, and a man more fit for the position could not be found from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Quick to act, and pleasant to act with, the busy work goes on as if the system had been perfected by years of practice. To the uninitiated nothing appears easier than to load a team and send it forward with instructions to return for more when unloaded, but when it is remembered that the distance to be travelled is some 250 miles out, and 250 miles in, and on

A 500 MILE JOURNEY

a team will consume its own load in supplies, the conundrum is:—What then is done to reach the front with full supplies? The ingenuity of Major Bell has contrived the system which Lord Melgund has credited with being the finest he has ever seen, and to which he has given special attention, that advantage may be taken of the lesson hereafter should necessity require it in his Lordship's experience. Briefly, it is this. It is estimated that but about one-quarter of everything that leaves the base of supplies reaches the front, the balance being consumed in transit, eaten by horses and men, with nothing on the road but water, a team travelling 500 miles, having nothing of its load left at the end of the route. In order to employ the full capacity of each team, stations or depots are established along the supply route at intervals of distance of 20 or 25 miles, according as the trail is good or bad, and the same teams are kept going and coming between these distances, none of them going through. One hundred teams leave the base of supplies, which is Troy, every alternate day, or 50 a day. These hundred draw loads to the second depot (Fort Qu'Appelle) for the 90 teams which leave there for the next northern station, and these 90 teams do likewise for the 80 teams that leave the latter depot for its next northern depot, and so on, until at the last station 40 full loads will be the complement left of the 100 full loads that left the base of supplies. It is calculated that the 10 extra teams on each 20 miles, beginning from the base of supplies, will draw

FORAGE AND SUPPLIES FOR THE TEAMS

and men upon the 20-mile route next nearer to the front, until finally 20 loads a day are delivered into camp. This system can be so adapted to circumstances that the supply can be doubled by moving the whole force one station ahead, and the good feature of it is that every team is carrying its full load at the end of its particular stage. The following illustrates the system:—

CLARK'S CROSSING.

Teams, 40—Melgund.
Teams, 50—Humboldt.
Teams, 60—Wise.
Teams, 65—Swinford.
Teams, 70—Bedeau.
Teams, 80—Houghton.
Teams, 90—Fort Qu'Appelle.
Teams, 100—Troy.
Railway.

This same system is adopted on

THE BATTLEFORD TRAIL,

which has been temporarily stopped on account of the raid made by the Indians, of which you will have fully heard before this letter reaches

Source: Toronto Globe: 23 May 1885

Source: *Toronto Globe*: 23 May 1885 463 kb

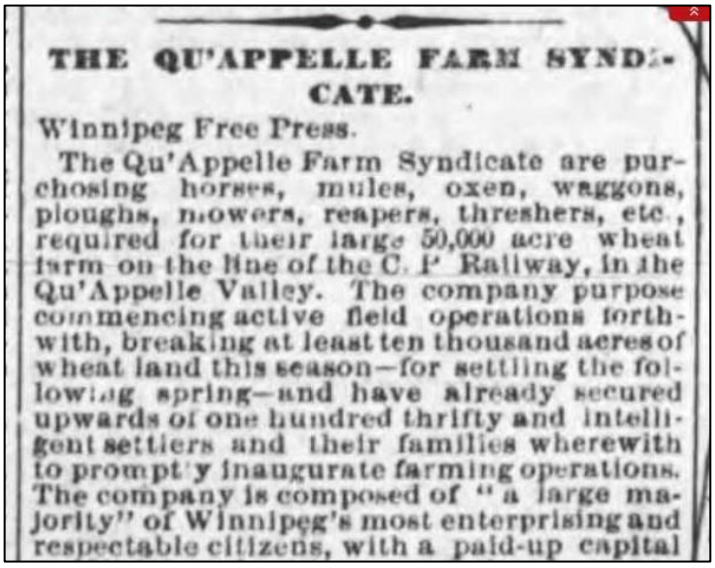
1882 – 24 May – *Indian Head history*, p. 487 – Peter Kerr helps build round barn

> Peter Kerr moved West in May 1882, arriving at future Indian Head site on May 24, where he "helped with the erection of the Round Barn on the Bell Farm."

1882 – June 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company granted letters patent

> "**TELEGRAPHIC – CANADA – Land Colonization and Mining Companies** – Letters patent of incorporation have ben issued to the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. and the Austin Mining Co."

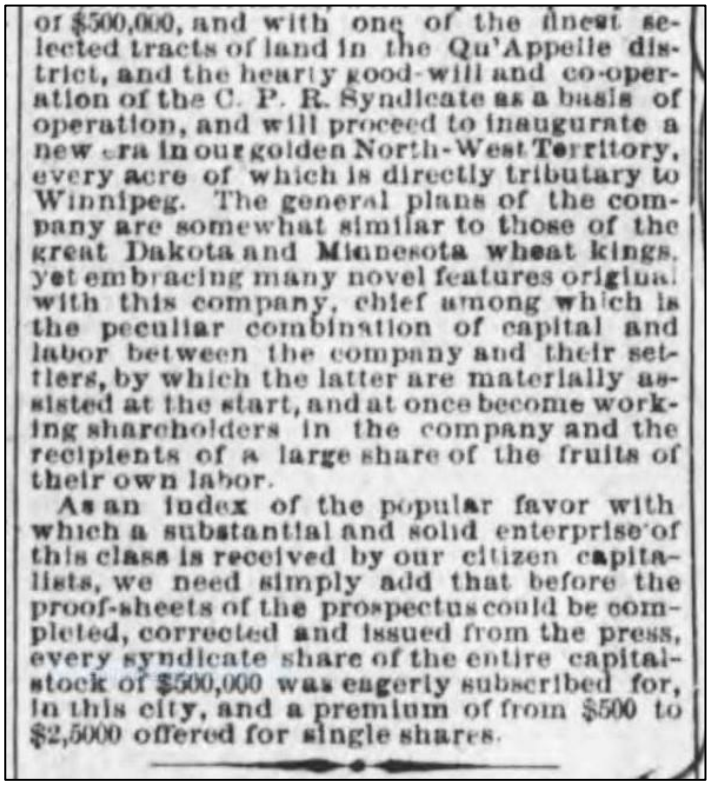
1882 – June 10 – *Saskatchewan Herald, Battleford*, p. 4 – establishment of Bell Farm syndicate



THE QU'APPELLE FARM SYNDICATE.

Winnipeg Free Press.

The Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate are purchasing horses, mules, oxen, waggons, ploughs, mowers, reapers, threshers, etc., required for their large 50,000 acre wheat farm on the line of the C. P. Railway, in the Qu'Appelle Valley. The company purpose commencing active field operations forthwith, breaking at least ten thousand acres of wheat land this season—for settling the following spring—and have already secured upwards of one hundred thrifty and intelligent settlers and their families wherewith to promptly inaugurate farming operations. The company is composed of "a large majority" of Winnipeg's most enterprising and respectable citizens, with a paid-up capital



of $500,000, and with one of the finest selected tracts of land in the Qu'Appelle district, and the hearty good-will and co-operation of the C. P. R. Syndicate as a basis of operation, and will proceed to inaugurate a new era in our golden North-West Territory, every acre of which is directly tributary to Winnipeg. The general plans of the company are somewhat similar to those of the great Dakota and Minnesota wheat kings, yet embracing many novel features original with this company, chief among which is the peculiar combination of capital and labor between the company and their settlers, by which the latter are materially assisted at the start, and at once become working shareholders in the company and the recipients of a large share of the fruits of their own labor.

As an index of the popular favor with which a substantial and solid enterprise of this class is received by our citizen capitalists, we need simply add that before the proof-sheets of the prospectus could be completed, corrected and issued from the press, every syndicate share of the entire capital-stock of $500,000 was eagerly subscribed for, in this city, and a premium of from $500 to $2,5000 offered for single shares.

83 kb 126 kb

1882 – June 15 – Major Bell's caravan of people, animals and supplies reached Indian Head. Seims (sic) and Armington, of Regina, began breaking the farm land under contract to the Company. [Name is SIMS or SIEMS]

(See also reference to Syms and Armington, of Moose Jaw in Winnipeg Daily Sun, 27 Nov, 1882, p. 1:

> "**PRAIRIE GOSSIP -** Prairie fires out West have destroyed immense quantities of hay, put up by contractors, with which to feed their horses during the winter. Syms & Armington, of Moose Jaw, lost over five hundred tons , and numerous others have lost almost equal amounts. The destruction has been so great that it will, in all probability, affect the price of hay all over the Province during the winter and coming spring.")

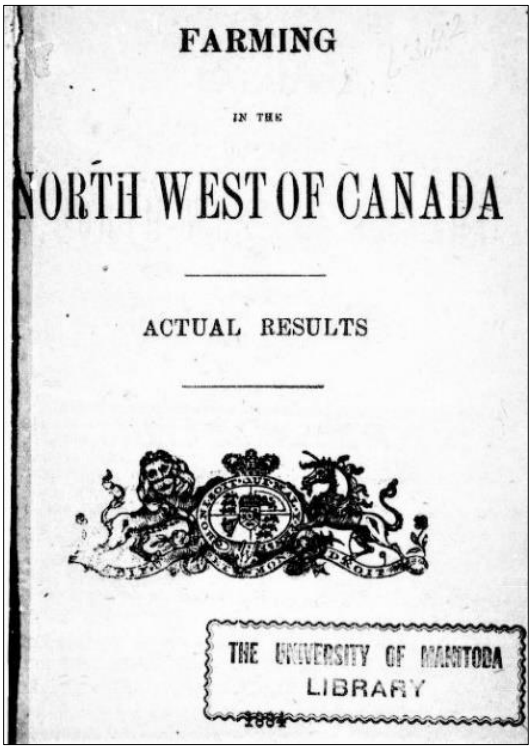
(A newspaper FOR SALE advertisement for SIEMS & ARMINGTON – dated 3 April 1883, lists them as contractors 18 miles from Moose Jaw, on CPR line. *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8, where they operate a ranch)

[Possibly, Peter Siems, railway contractor from St. Pail, Minnesota.]

Transportation of supplies, men and animals from Winnipeg to Indian Head

Source for the text below: http://archive.org/stream/cihm_30654#page/n37/mode/2up the *Toronto Globe* article also appeared in the "**Shenango Valley News**" (Pennsylvania) under the title 'A Canadian "Bonanza" Farm' - Nov 24, 1882, p. 3 - as well as in the *Monticello Jasper County News,* Georgia, p .2 – Dec. 16, 1882.

Book Title: "*Farming in the North-West of Canada: Actual Results 1884*" – p. 31-35 – "The Bell Farm at Qu'Appelle"



- Ref: to lime and brick p. 34, and to telephone on p. 35
  [Frank's Note: the telephone was invented in 1874 by Alexander Graham Bell, just 10 years before it was installed at the Bell Farm.]

- Bell Farm company is firming up with the squatters, but not yet fully settled – p, 35

- Good description of Bell Farmhouse – full cellar in front – p. 34-35

- Three-mile-long wagon train left Flat Creek mid May, arrived mid June, 1882
  [Frank's Note: An 1885 newspaper report indicated that Major Bell travelled 20 miles per day when he moved his supplies to Indian Head in 1882. Flat Creek was about one day's train ride from Winnipeg, but it is not known if

Major Bell and all his supplies and animals left from Winnipeg or Flat Creek. Flat Creek is about 160 miles from Winnipeg; and Indian Head about 150 miles from Flat Creek. It would therefore take about 8 days to walk from Winnipeg to Flat Creek, at the rate of 20 miles per day. Likewise, the walk from Flat Creek to Indian Head would then have taken from 7 ½ to 8 days.]

- However, in a report from Professor Henry Tanner in August 1884, he states that it took Major Bell five weeks to travel by horse and wagon from Brandon to Indian Head in 1882 (distance of 182.5 miles). If correct, this suggests that Bell travelled only about 5 ½ miles per day, which is a very small distance even for that time. The discrepancy between the two reports needs to be checked out. (Source: *Albany Settlement document,1886*, p. 12)

Creek he has one cellar which holds 6,000 bushels, and it is so well arranged that he can, contrary to general practice, go into it any day in the winter without damaging the roots. In fact it is entered almost every day in order to see that the temperature is just what is necessary. When it is too warm the ventilators are opened. When it is too cold the aid of a small stove in the cellar soon enables them to warm the air sufficiently. Last winter they had occasion to use the stove only five or six times, and then chiefly as a matter of precaution.

MANURING FOR FIELD ROOTS

While on this subject for roots, it may be stated that Mr. Hardie manures all the ground part under roots, and has found, to his satisfaction, that this process increases the yield by fully one-third. In the drills, when they are opened for potatoes, manure is first spread. Then the potatoes are planted and covered up. As are the other field roots, they are sown on land used for potatoes the year before, and in that way get the benefit of the manuring. The locality in which Mr. Hardie has settled, Sturgeon Creek, is one of the finest in the Province for agricultural purposes. He has had means to make a good start and push operations when needful. At one time last spring he was paying wages at the rate of thirty dollars a day.

(From the Toronto "Globe")

THE BELL FARM AT QU'APPELLE

56,000 ACRES UNDER ONE MANAGEMENT

The mammoth farm of the North-West is owned and operated by the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. It comprises a tract ten miles square, which, after deducting the Hudson Bay Company's sections and the sections allotted for school purposes, leaves

A FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND ACRE FARM,

the largest farm in the world, owned by one company in one block. The land is situated on the old trail from Winnipeg to Fort Qu'Appelle, and the main buildings are just twenty-two miles in an almost direct line south of the Fort. The C. P. R. runs through the centre of this valuable tract, which is in reality one of the

P. 31 – 220 kb "Farming in the North-West of Canada: Actual Results 1884"

"gilt-edged" pieces of the North-West, and a station to be known by the name of Indian Head is located near the centre. Here an interesting village is rapidly springing up. In taking up this land the Company entered into an agreement with the Government which it is presumed they intend and will be required to adhere to faithfully. They agreed to pay the Government $1 25 per acre and to break 4,000 acres every year for five years—or in all twenty thousand acres. In addition to this the Company binds itself under penalty of forfeiture of the purchase money to place each year within the tract as tenants at least fifty families, and to spend within the five years $600,000 in improvements and in working the farm. So far the work has been pushed vigorously; the Company evidently mean business, and having been generously dealt with by the Government, will avail themselves of all the advantages to make the undertaking a profitable one. Major Bell, who has sole management of the farm, originally came from Brockville. He was one of the proprietors of the noted Bell-Kelso farm in Minnesota, where he obtained the experience he possesses, and which fits him to operate an enterprise so vast. Having sold his Minnesota interest, he will devote his entire attention to the farm at Qu'Appelle, which, by the way, is a scheme of his own suggestion.

THE WORK BEGUN

The plan Major Bell intends to pursue to bring the extensive area of prairie land under cultivation, and the success of his work so far, show that he has thoroughly grasped the difficulties of the project and has no anticipation of failure. The Emerson *International* furnishes an interesting description of the operations up to the present time. Some extracts therefrom will doubtless be perused with interest by our readers. When the breaking outfit started for the big farm the Canada Pacific Railway was in operation only as far as Flat Creek, a point 200 miles east of its destination. The outfit, consisting of 120 yoke of oxen, 35 mules, and 16 teams of horses, attached to gang ploughs and waggons, and forming a train three miles in length, left Flat Creek in May, and, after encountering many obstacles and enduring many hardships in the way of fording and swimming swollen streams and floundering through almost impassable sloughs, the caravan finally reached the farm and commenced breaking about the 15th of June. At the time of the reporter's visit three thousand acres were under plough and the breakers were on their fourth thousand acres, which was expected to be under plough before the close of the season.

P. 32 – 208 kb "Farming in the North-West of Canada: Actual Results 1884"

THE SOIL.

is a rich sandy loam, eighteen inches to two feet in depth, with clay subsoil, and is easily broken. Once broken it does not require "backsetting," as does the soil of the Red River Valley, but simply requires harrowing to be in shape for the reception of seed. The sight of the vast stretches of rich mellow loam turned up to the pulverizing rays of the sun would make the eyes of the average Ontario farmer bulge out with amazement. The simple statement "four thousand acres" gives little idea of the extent of the ploughed fields, but when one imagines a field two miles wide by three and one half miles long, then some idea is obtained of the size of the fields on the Bell Farm, by which title the place is now generally known. Take another comparison. Were the furrows in these four thousand acres stretched out in one continuous furrow it would reach a distance of 36,000 miles, or encircle the earth nearly one and a half times. Or were the land ploughed into a stretch twenty feet wide it would reach from Winnipeg to Montreal, *via* St. Paul and Chicago, a distance of 1,800 miles. The company proposes to break 7,000 acres next summer, and will have a force capable of breaking

ONE THOUSAND ACRES PER WEEK.

Oxen are chiefly employed in breaking, because they are most easily kept. Early in the season three yoke pulled a gang plough of two ploughs, cutting each a furrow fifteen inches wide. The season having been very dry, the sod has become tough, and five yoke are now required to pull a gang of two ploughs. It is a novel and interesting sight to see a number of the ploughs in line, five yoke of oxen to a plough, and the whole forming quite a caravan, converting the brown prairie into a sea of black wavelets, turning up a rod or more of sod at a "swath." The breaking force commence work at daylight and work till 11 o'clock a. m., when the oxen are turned out to grass and allowed to feed till 3 o'clock p. m., when the oxen are again put to work and kept at it till dark, the calculation being to cover

FOURTEEN MILES EACH DAY.

The oxen get no other feed except what they pick up on the prairie. Eighty yoke of oxen are employed in breaking at present, and in addition to these 35 mules and 34 horses are used in ploughing and other work. Next year only mules and horses will be employed, as a good supply of hay (400 tons) has been put up, and now that the railway is in operation oats can be otained at a

P. 33 – 231 kb "Farming in the North-West of Canada: Actual Results 1884"

comparatively low rate until next season's crop can be harvested. Major Bell's plans are comprehensive, and everything is done systematically. Besides himself there is a general superintendent of the farm, Mr. T. Routledge, an Englishman, and a number of foremen. At present 100 men are employed in erecting buildings, breaking, &c. Handsome and substantial stone buildings are being erected. In the erection of his buildings Major Bell has struck an idea that can be adopted with profit by a great many settlers in the North-West. Scattered over the farm, always on the surface, are to be found a considerable number of hardheads, lime and sandstone. These stones supply the building material for the

NUMEROUS HOUSES AND STABLES

that are being erected on the farm, and "thus two birds are killed with one stone," so to speak—the farm is cleared of stones, and cheap building material is secured at the same time. The main buildings on the farm are located about a mile and a half north of the railway station. A large and substantial stable has been erected, and a handsome and substantial house is nearly completed. The stable is a model of strength and comfort. It is circular in shape and looks something like the round elevators one sees along the St. P., M., & M. Railway, only it is not so high and is more substantial, the stone walls being two feet thick. It contains 36 stalls and two box stalls. The floor is paved with cobble stone. Overhead is a loft with capacity for 150 tons of hay. In the centre of the upper story is a bin for oats, with storage capacity of 4,000 bushels. Major Bell has hit upon a

NOVEL AND ECONOMICAL PLAN

for roofing his buildings. He first sheets the rafters with common lumber and then paints the boards. Before the paint dries heavy ducking is stretched over the boards and tacked down, and this is then painted and sanded, making a tight and at the same time cheap roof. All the building material, except lumber, is obtained on the farm. The company have their own lime kiln and have this year burned 1,500 bushels. Next year they will commence the manufacture of brick. The

MAIN FARM RESIDENCE

is a substantial and handsome pile. The estimated cost of the building is $8,000 though it could not be erected in any part of Manitoba for anything like that sum. The main portion of the building is 40 feet square, two full storeys, with a wing; also two

stories 24 x 50 feet in size. The upper portion of the wing furnishes sleeping accommodation for 20 farm hands, while below is the kitchen and a dining-room for the men. In the main building one side is divided into a parlor and dining-room, and the other into offices for the general manager and superintendent. The second story is divided into bedrooms. Underneath the main building is a fine cellar, extending the full size of the building. The residence is situated about 100 yards south of the stable. At the rear of the house an acre of ground has been ploughed for a garden, and Major Bell intends to have a garden that will astonish visitors to the farm, and show

WHAT NORTH-WEST SOIL CAN DO

Trees from the Lake of the Woods are to be used for the ornamentation of the road leading to the station. Near the barn is a blacksmith shop and at the rear of the house an ice-house—the latter to be filled the coming winter from two beautiful lakes located six miles south of the house. In addition to these, two large sheds for implements, located on each side of the barn and each 20 x 150 feet in size, are to be erected.

THE SYSTEM OF FARMING

to be followed is as follows :—It is proposed to divide the tract into farms of 200 acres each. On each farm a stone house and stable will be erected. A man with family will be put on each farm and will be paid $35 per month and have house rent free. Will also be provided with fuel at cost. At the end of five years he will have the privilege of purchasing the farm he occupies if he wishes at a fair valuation. The farm houses are one story stone cottages, 25 x 30, plastered and nicely finished inside, and are erected at the astonishingly small cost of $300. A number have already been erected and more will be put up before the season closes. When the place has been fully carried out there will be 200 houses, and all will be connected with the main office by telephone. Four deep coulees (in ordinary seasons they are creeks, though this year they are dry), traverse the farm at intervals of from one to two miles, and run northward and empty into the Qu'Appelle River, furnishing such a perfect system of drainage that the entire tract of 56,000 acres can be properly cultivated without doing 100 feet of ditching.

The company are closing up with the squatters and apprehend little further difficulty in settling with them.

P. 35 – 227 kb "Farming in the North-West of Canada: Actual Results 1884"

1882 – June 15 – Breaking the land starts on the Bell Farm (ref: March 7, 1885 - *The Tasmanian*)

1882 – June 15 – Breaking the land starts on the Bell Farm – (ref: "Engineering" magazine, Vol. 38, 1884 – p. 77-78)

1882 – June 17 – According to Dominion Lands Agent J. McD. Gordon, breaking on the Bell Farm started on June 17.

1882 – June 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Incorporation of Bell Farm

> "**Items from the Canada Gazette:** Letters patent have been granted to the Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate. Capital stock, $5,000,000 [sic] "– check Canada Gazette for correct dollar amount.

1882 – June 23 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Col. Richardson acquires Charter for Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate (not same as Bell Farm)

> "**The Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate.** The charter for the Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate has been handed over to Col. S. Richardson, manager of the concern. The company purchased last May 10,000 acres of selected wheat land, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, on the C.P.R., which are to be put under immediate cultivation by settlers who will be furnished with outfits by the company. Col. Richardson is not organizing a company on a large scale."

1882 – June 23 – *Colonies and India* p. 5 - Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company incorporated

> "**CANADA.** Announcement has been made . . . The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company has been incorporated, with a capital of $600,000, and . . . . . ."

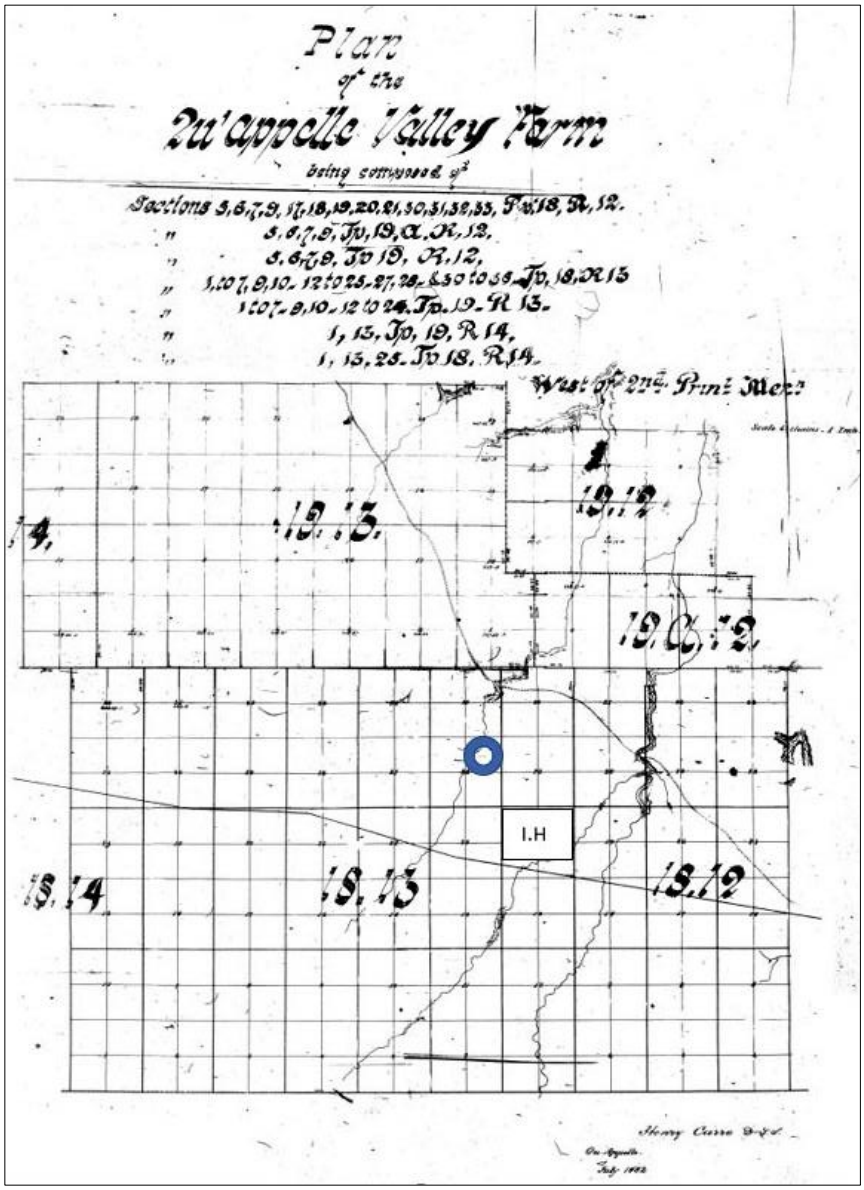
1882 – June 25 – First Annual Meeting of the QVFC and Report – 10 Jan. 1883

> Major Bell and his entourage reach Indian Head on June 25th and building construction begins – with over 100 workers. Previously, a contract had been let to begin breaking the land for seeding.

1882 – June – (as recorded in *Manitoba Free Press*, 25 Oct, 1902, p. 19) – comments from E.J. Brooks

> "Mr. E.J. Brooks is one of the pioneers of the district. He came here in 1882 before the railway was constructed to this point. At that time there were only a few tents on the Bell Farm."

1882 – June - July – map of Bell Farm holdings surveyed and drawn by Henry Carre


Plan
of the
Qu'appelle Valley Farm
being composed of
Sections 3,6,7,9, 17,18,19,20,21,30,31,32,33, Tp.18, R. 12.
" 3,6,7,9, Tp. 19, R. 12.
" 3,6,7,9, Tp 19, R. 12,
" 1,2,3,9,10, 12 to 25, 27, 28, & 30 to 36 Tp. 18, R 13
" 1 to 7, 9, 10, 12 to 24. Tp. 19. R 13.
" 1, 13, Tp. 19, R 14,
" 1, 13, 25. Tp 18, R 14.
West of 2nd Prin: Mer:
I.H

(FRANK – my notes - Blue Circle: Bell Farm headquarters; Rectangle with “I.H." = Indian Head townsite)

1882 – Summer – Construction of Farm Buildings begins in late June

According to family tradition, Joseph Donald Turner (1862-1896) and Jack Gibson, stonemasons, moved from Ontario to the North-West in 1882 to help build the round stone barn on the Bell Farm. (p. 146 – Turner family history)

1882 – John G. Woods becomes Bell Farm accountant and superintendent (1882-1884)

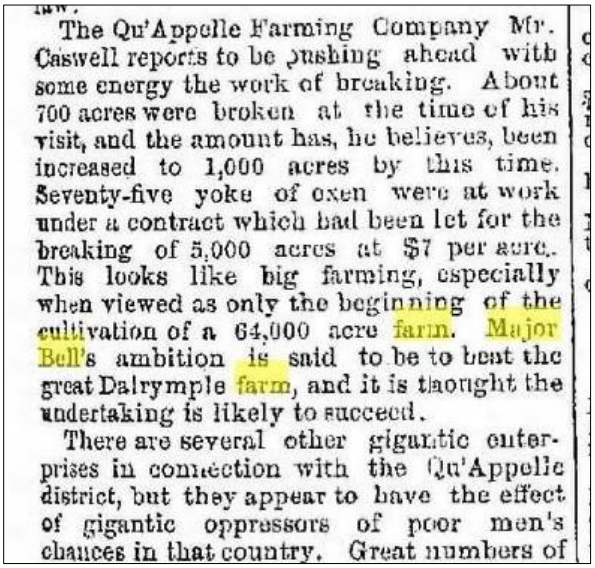
“John G. Woods . . . in 1879 . . . going to Colorado . . . later returning to Canada, and in 1882 relocating in Winnipeg. After a few months he secured a position as accountant and superintendent of the Bell Farm near that city, but this he resigned in 1884 in order to work on the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad through the Canadian Rockies. After one year at this work he returned to Qu’Appelle and joined Major Bell, then chief transport officer, as superintendent of transports from Fort Qu’Appelle to the Touchwood Hills, later

extending his territory to Fish creek and other points. He remained until the close of the Riel rebellion, and then in the fall of 1885 returned to the mountains . . . "

Source: *British Columbia From the Earliest Times to the Present*, Vol. III, Biographical, 1914, p. 363.

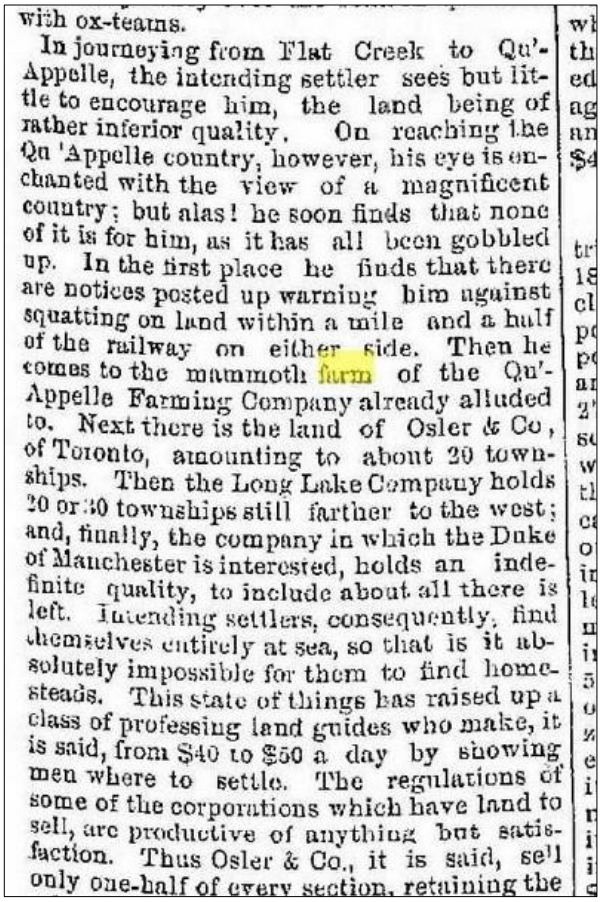
1882 – Squatters issue started; not settled until Nov. 20, 1884

1882 – July 6 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 5 – Impact of large farms – like Bell - on settlers



The Qu'Appelle Farming Company Mr. Caswell reports to be pushing ahead with some energy the work of breaking. About 700 acres were broken at the time of his visit, and the amount has, he believes, been increased to 1,000 acres by this time. Seventy-five yoke of oxen were at work under a contract which had been let for the breaking of 5,000 acres at $7 per acre. This looks like big farming, especially when viewed as only the beginning of the cultivation of a 64,000 acre farm. Major Bell's ambition is said to be to beat the great Dalrymple farm, and it is thought the undertaking is likely to succeed.

There are several other gigantic enterprises in connection with the Qu'Appelle district, but they appear to have the effect of gigantic oppressors of poor men's chances in that country. Great numbers of



with ox-teams.

In journeying from Flat Creek to Qu'Appelle, the intending settler sees but little to encourage him, the land being of rather inferior quality. On reaching the Qu'Appelle country, however, his eye is enchanted with the view of a magnificent country; but alas! he soon finds that none of it is for him, as it has all been gobbled up. In the first place he finds that there are notices posted up warning him against squatting on land within a mile and a half of the railway on either side. Then he comes to the mammoth farm of the Qu'Appelle Farming Company already alluded to. Next there is the land of Osler & Co., of Toronto, amounting to about 20 townships. Then the Long Lake Company holds 20 or 30 townships still farther to the west; and, finally, the company in which the Duke of Manchester is interested, holds an indefinite quality, to include about all there is left. Intending settlers, consequently, find themselves entirely at sea, so that is it absolutely impossible for them to find homesteads. This state of things has raised up a class of professing land guides who make, it is said, from $40 to $50 a day by showing men where to settle. The regulations of some of the corporations which have land to sell, are productive of anything but satisfaction. Thus Osler & Co., it is said, sell only one-half of every section, retaining the

Part 1 (130 kb) and later Part 2 (184 kb)

1882 – July 12 – Bell Farm applied to purchase School Lands within the Farm area – denied.

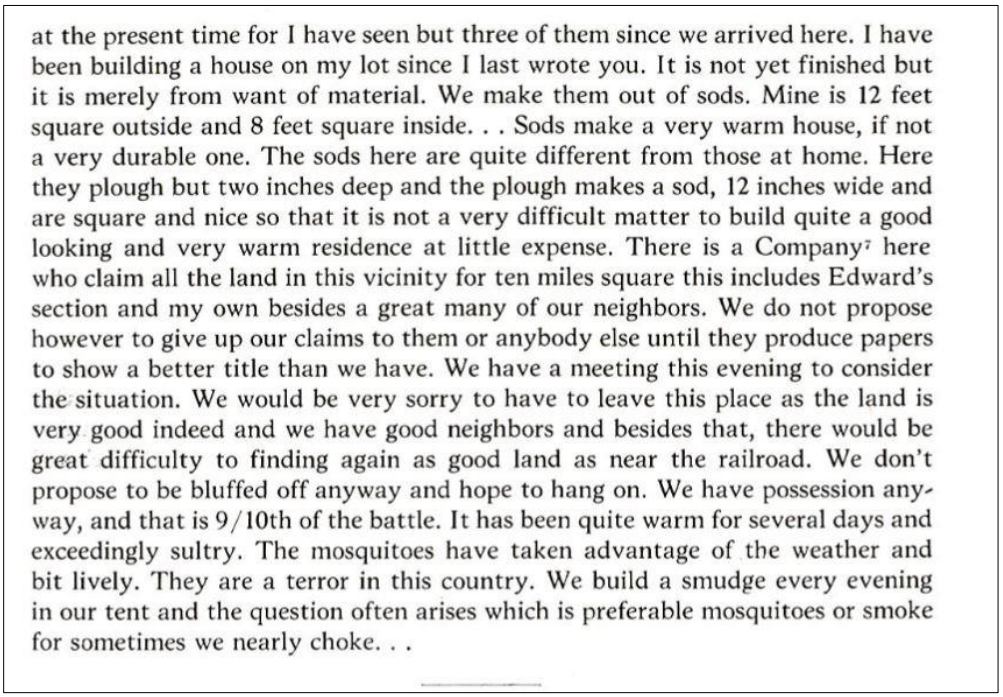
"- 2 – On the 12th of July, 1882, the Company made application to purchase certain School Land Sections. It was informed that these lands could only be disposed of by public auction."

Source: _____?

1882 – July 17 – Manitoba Daily Free Press, p. 8 – Major Bell, from Brockville, staying at Grand Union Hotel, Winnipeg

"**HOTEL ARRIVALS** . . . GRAND UNION: . . . . W.R. Bell, Brockville; . . . ."

1882 – July 25 – E.J. Brooks writes about life as a squatter.

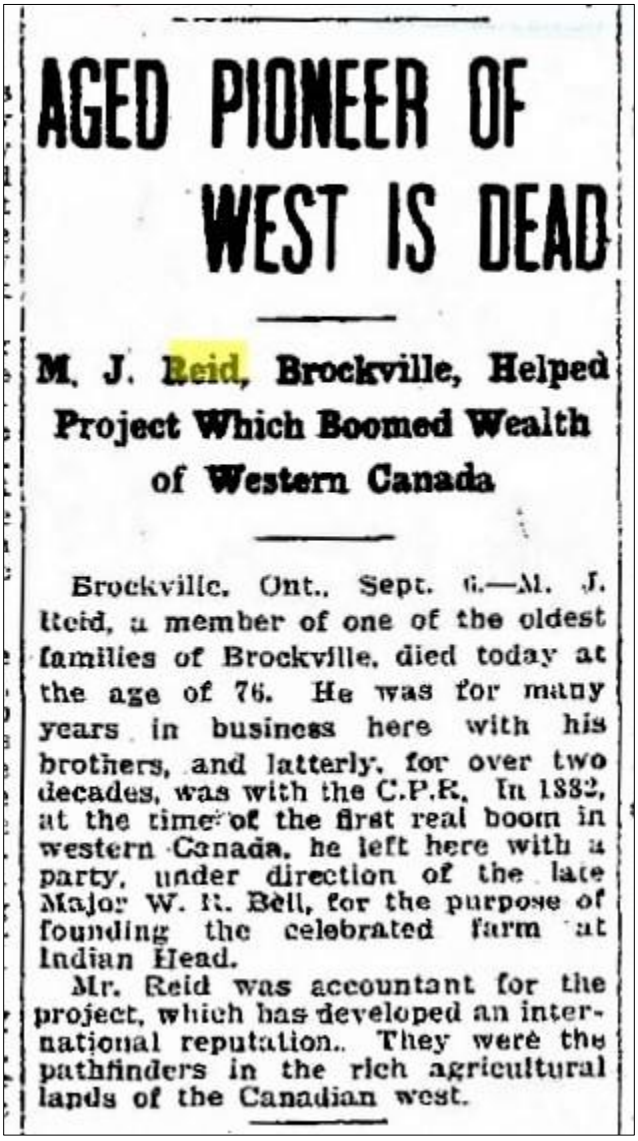


at the present time for I have seen but three of them since we arrived here. I have been building a house on my lot since I last wrote you. It is not yet finished but it is merely from want of material. We make them out of sods. Mine is 12 feet square outside and 8 feet square inside. . . Sods make a very warm house, if not a very durable one. The sods here are quite different from those at home. Here they plough but two inches deep and the plough makes a sod, 12 inches wide and are square and nice so that it is not a very difficult matter to build quite a good looking and very warm residence at little expense. There is a Company[7] here who claim all the land in this vicinity for ten miles square this includes Edward's section and my own besides a great many of our neighbors. We do not propose however to give up our claims to them or anybody else until they produce papers to show a better title than we have. We have a meeting this evening to consider the situation. We would be very sorry to have to leave this place as the land is very good indeed and we have good neighbors and besides that, there would be great difficulty to finding again as good land as near the railroad. We don't propose to be bluffed off anyway and hope to hang on. We have possession anyway, and that is 9/10th of the battle. It has been quite warm for several days and exceedingly sultry. The mosquitoes have taken advantage of the weather and bit lively. They are a terror in this country. We build a smudge every evening in our tent and the question often arises which is preferable mosquitoes or smoke for sometimes we nearly choke. . .

(Ref: Letter published in Saskatchewan History, 1957, Vol. 10. No. 3, p. 107-108)

1882 – Seims (sic) and Armington contracted to break land – started on June 25 – Contracted to break 3,000 acres; succeed in breaking 2, 567 acres. (Ref: Ed Morgan's history – p. 44.) [Name is actually spelled: SIEMS]

1882 – *Manitoba Free Press* for 7 Sept. 1916 , p. 1 – reported that M.J. Reid came to Indian Head in 1882 as accountant for the Bell Farm – [FRANK – no reference to Reid yet found in earlier newspapers.]



AGED PIONEER OF WEST IS DEAD

M. J. Reid, Brockville, Helped Project Which Boomed Wealth of Western Canada

Brockville, Ont., Sept. 6.—M. J. Reid, a member of one of the oldest families of Brockville, died today at the age of 76. He was for many years in business here with his brothers, and latterly, for over two decades, was with the C.P.R. In 1882, at the time of the first real boom in western Canada, he left here with a party, under direction of the late Major W. R. Bell, for the purpose of founding the celebrated farm at Indian Head.

Mr. Reid was accountant for the project, which has developed an international reputation. They were the pathfinders in the rich agricultural lands of the Canadian west.

lands of the Canadian west.

The project of the Bell farms, although a splendid scheme, did not meet with very great success, as on two occasions the companies had to go into liquidation.

In 1883 the late Mr. Reid and Major Bell had started their work on the vast number of acres in the Indian Head district, and by 1884 a very good crop was harvested. The company was then known as the Qu'-Appelle Valley Farming company and prospered until 1887 when, owing to reverse crop conditions for two years in succession, followed by the commandeering of the teams on the farm for transports in the Riel rebellion, the company had to abandon the project. The following year the Bell Farming company was organized and until 1890 managed to carry on operations. In that year, however, the Bell Farm company went into liquidation and the mortgage company handled the residue.

The scheme, in short, was the establishment of a very large farm about 75,000 acres, with one central headquarters for the manager and overseers. Cottages were built at the corner of each four sections so that four families would be together. The married men were given these houses and the single men boarded with the married employees.

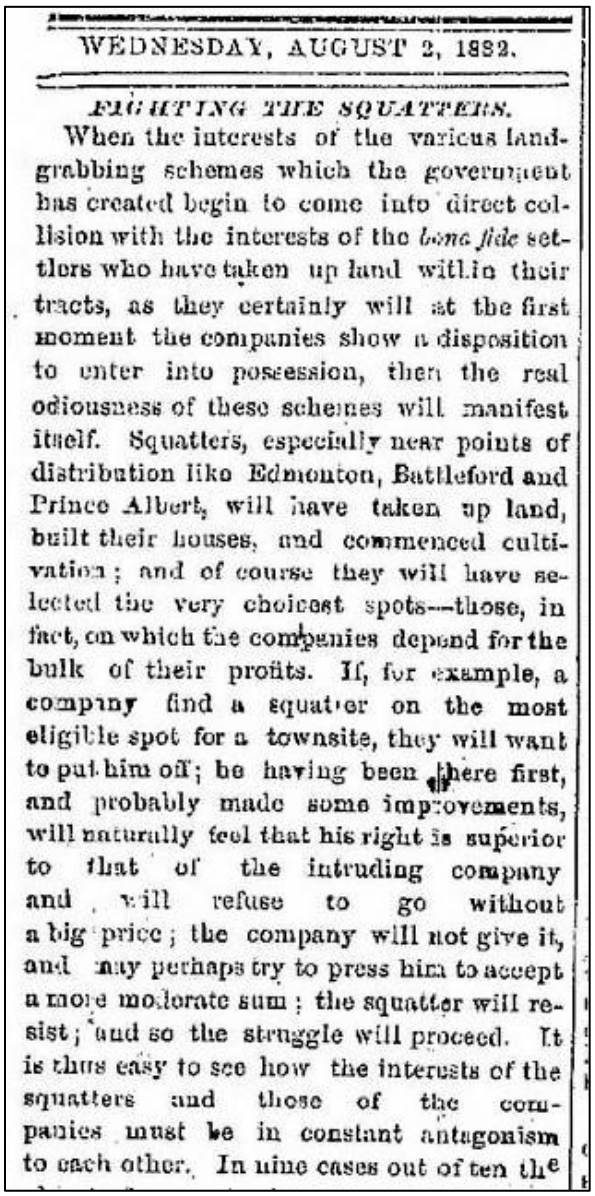
Following the crash in 1890 Mr. Reid joined the C.P.R. staff. The Bell farms were all sold and today are some of the best wheat producing sections in the whole of the province.

Part 1: (109 kb) Part 2: (147 kb)

1882 – Aug. ___ – further report on squatters in letter from E.J. Brooks

> ". . . . . There is a good deal of excitement here just now about the town. Where it is to be located we hear all kinds of rumors. If it is on No. 23, Edward should make a good thing and if he does I will. We think we can hold the land all right but may be mistaken. We have sent a delegate to Ottawa to find out. Of course my pay goes on just the same but still I am interested in Edward's, and he has a splendid 320 acres . . . . "

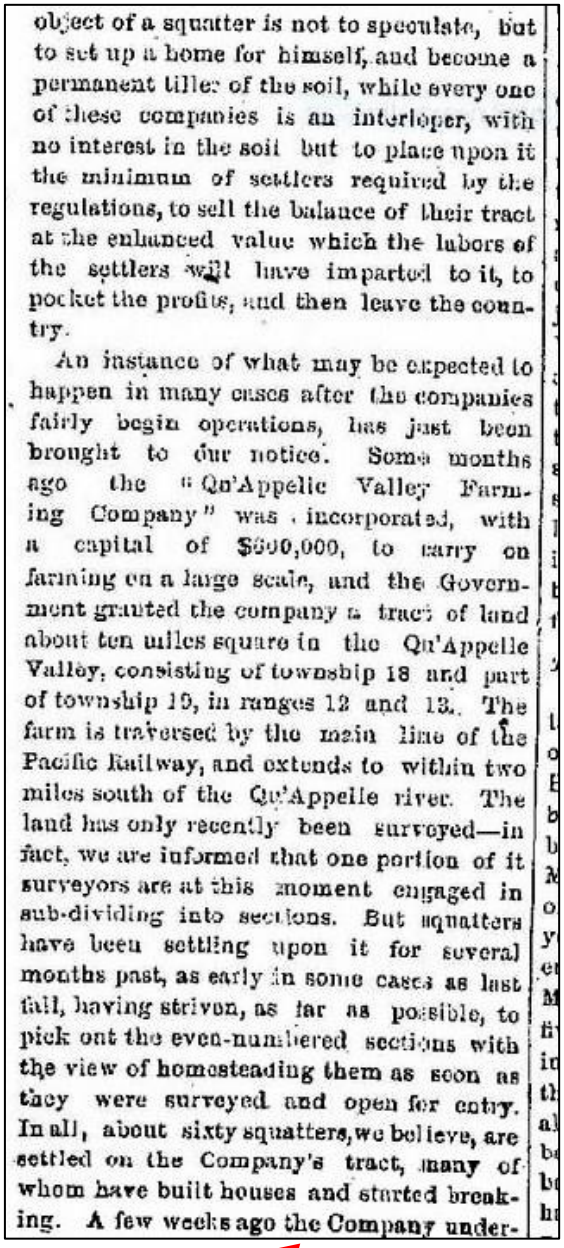
1882 – Aug. 2 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – First newspaper report on Squatters – about 6 weeks after Major Bell and his construction crew arrived at the Bell Farm site - Major Bell's crew arrived "a few weeks ago"



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1882.

FIGHTING THE SQUATTERS.

When the interests of the various land-grabbing schemes which the government has created begin to come into direct collision with the interests of the *bona fide* settlers who have taken up land within their tracts, as they certainly will at the first moment the companies show a disposition to enter into possession, then the real odiousness of these schemes will manifest itself. Squatters, especially near points of distribution like Edmonton, Battleford and Prince Albert, will have taken up land, built their houses, and commenced cultivation; and of course they will have selected the very choicest spots—those, in fact, on which the companies depend for the bulk of their profits. If, for example, a company find a squatter on the most eligible spot for a townsite, they will want to put him off; he having been there first, and probably made some improvements, will naturally feel that his right is superior to that of the intruding company and will refuse to go without a big price; the company will not give it, and may perhaps try to press him to accept a more moderate sum; the squatter will resist; and so the struggle will proceed. It is thus easy to see how the interests of the squatters and those of the companies must be in constant antagonism to each other. In nine cases out of ten the



object of a squatter is not to speculate, but to set up a home for himself, and become a permanent tiller of the soil, while every one of these companies is an interloper, with no interest in the soil but to place upon it the minimum of settlers required by the regulations, to sell the balance of their tract at the enhanced value which the labors of the settlers will have imparted to it, to pocket the profits, and then leave the country.

An instance of what may be expected to happen in many cases after the companies fairly begin operations, has just been brought to our notice. Some months ago the "Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company" was incorporated, with a capital of $600,000, to carry on farming on a large scale, and the Government granted the company a tract of land about ten miles square in the Qu'Appelle Valley, consisting of township 18 and part of township 19, in ranges 12 and 13. The farm is traversed by the main line of the Pacific Railway, and extends to within two miles south of the Qu'Appelle river. The land has only recently been surveyed—in fact, we are informed that one portion of it surveyors are at this moment engaged in sub-dividing into sections. But squatters have been settling upon it for several months past, as early in some cases as last fall, having striven, as far as possible, to pick out the even-numbered sections with the view of homesteading them as soon as they were surveyed and open for entry. In all, about sixty squatters, we believe, are settled on the Company's tract, many of whom have built houses and started breaking. A few weeks ago the Company under-

Part 1 of 5 Part 2 of 5

took to take possession of their tract, but found it covered with these squatters. A Major Bell, a member of the Company, went to treat with them, and succeeded in inducing a few to leave; but the majority refused to go, and unitedly expressed their determination to hold their land and fight the Company to the end. So there is a deadlock between the Company and the squatters, and both are hampered in consequence.

We understand that the Company claim to have obtained the disputed tract by arrangement with the Government, the Syndicate and the Hudson Bay Company—the Government actually conveying to them all the even-numbered sections and the school lands by order in council in April last. If this is the case, the Company are probably not to blame for attempting to get possession of their own property, for which they have perhaps paid cash. The blame rests on the Government for having granted any company a block of land in that district in violation of their own regulations. Those regulations specifically reserve all the even-numbered sections within the railway belt—and, as we have stated, the railway runs right across this tract—for homesteads and pre-emptions; and to take any of them away from the honest settlers for the purpose of handing them over to a speculating farming company, is an act meriting the severest censure. The audacity of the Government in thus invading the territory peculiarly intended for individual settlers may perchance be accounted for by

Part 3 of 5

the fact that Mr. John Northwood, of Chatham, the son of a Tory senator, is the president of the Q'Appelle Farming Company. When a Tory M.P., a Tory Senator, or any of the numerous relatives and friends of one of the ministers is to be served, the Northwest is the treasury which is drawn from for the purpose; and if the interests of the settler stand in the way—well, so much the worse for the settler, that is all.

We fear that in the instance above cited, the settlers have little to hope for. They may attempt to fight the company by claiming their homesteads on the ground of priority of occupation, in accordance with the Dominion Lands Act, but unless the Government run the risk of breaking their agreement with the company, or induce them to exchange their tract for one outside the railway belt, the unfortunate settlers may find that they will have to fight the Government and the company combined. If they should choose to adopt so daring an alternative, it is just possible that the Government would meet with a surprise; for we do not believe there is either a civil or a military power in the land which would drive those settlers out. The settlers do not fear any civil power, because they feel that they have right on their side, morally if not technically; and there

Part 4 of 5

is not a man among the mounted police who would not prefer mutiny to charging upon a man who occupied a homestead which he believed was his own. One thing is certain—every successive act of tyranny which this corrupt and reckless administration visits upon the struggling pioneers of the Northwest will only serve to render more certain their deep and lasting enmity against the name of Toryism.

Part 5 of 5

1882 – Aug. 2 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 6 – CPR track to be "abreast of Fort Qu'Appelle on the 3rd of August"

PACIFIC RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

Progress of the Work.

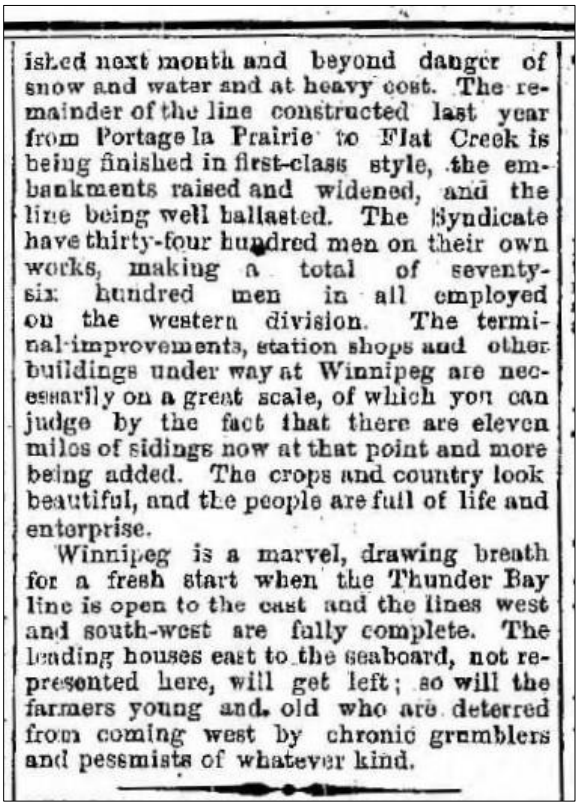
The following telegram, despatched by Mr. Geo. Laidlaw, the well-known railway promoter, from the end of the Canadian Pacific Railway track, two hundred and ninety miles west of Winnipeg, under date of July 19th, has been received by a Minister of the Crown :—

I came to see and have been astonished at the beauty and fertility of this country. The style of engineering, rapidity of construction, extent and excellence of equipment of the C. P. R., and the road bed especially, exceed my expectation. It is high above the prairie, no cuts, wide substantial embankment, and good drainage. The progress of construction is unprecedented, the contractors, Langdon, Sheppard & Co.'s organization is really splendid — appointed, equipped, fed, and handled like a brigade of the army. They employ seventeen hundred teams, forty-two hundred men, and all the newest and best style of plant, and are getting more men, horses and plant every day. Grading has been completed 150 miles further west, and the track will be abreast of Fort Qu'Appelle on the 3rd of August, and I and some of mine with it; 70 miles of grading west of track complete. If the Government keep the Indians fed and happy, and there is a continuance of the present fine weather, the 500 miles will be completed before Christmas, and the engines 50 miles beyond the Saskatchewan.

Part 1 of 3

The red-coats in the railway camps keep them quieter than Scotch picnics. The men are paid $2.25 per diem; board four and a half dollars a week, man and team three and a half per diem, and I have found about three to four thousand bushels of oats distributed daily over one hundred and fifty miles. Three and one-quarter miles of track are laid daily, and this will be increased within a few days. The telegraph line is up to the end of the track every night. The requirements of the work are simply enormous, and to keep it going at the front, rails, ties, fastenings, piles, timber and contractors' supplies are kept moving in a steady stream from the supply depots to the end of the track. About sixty-five car-loads of eighteen tons of these materials are used each day. Each train takes from the supply depot to the front the exact amount of materials of all kinds required for one mile of track, but a large reserve is kept close to the front to guard against accidents or delay. The company has at its supply depots a vast amount of construction materials, rails for three hundred miles of track and fastenings for nearly 500 miles, beside a great quantity of ties, piles, bridge material, lumber, telegraph poles and wire. The new line between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, which was submerged in the opening by the overflow of the Assiniboine, will be fin-

Part 2 of 3

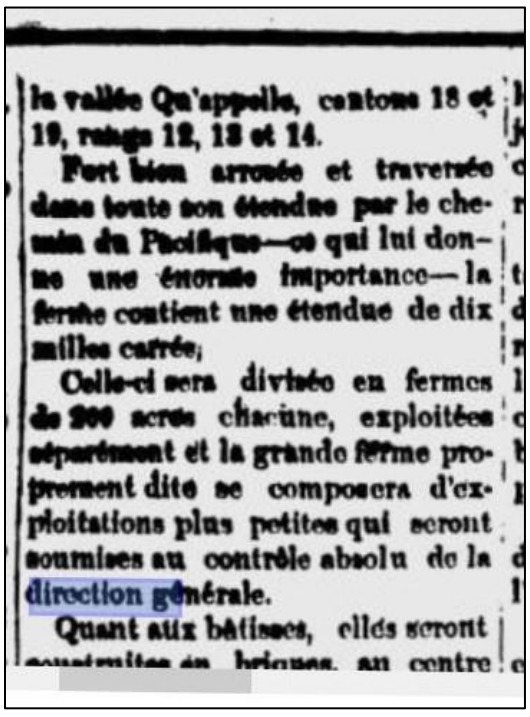


ished next month and beyond danger of snow and water and at heavy cost. The remainder of the line constructed last year from Portage la Prairie to Flat Creek is being finished in first-class style, the embankments raised and widened, and the line being well ballasted. The Syndicate have thirty-four hundred men on their own works, making a total of seventy-six hundred men in all employed on the western division. The terminal-improvements, station shops and other buildings under way at Winnipeg are necessarily on a great scale, of which you can judge by the fact that there are eleven miles of sidings now at that point and more being added. The crops and country look beautiful, and the people are full of life and enterprise.

Winnipeg is a marvel, drawing breath for a fresh start when the Thunder Bay line is open to the east and the lines west and south-west are fully complete. The leading houses east to the seaboard, not represented here, will get left; so will the farmers young and old who are deterred from coming west by chronic grumblers and pessmists of whatever kind.

Part 3 of 3

1882 – Aug. 2 – *Le Constitutionnel,* p. ___ - Report of establishment of the Bell Farm (in French)

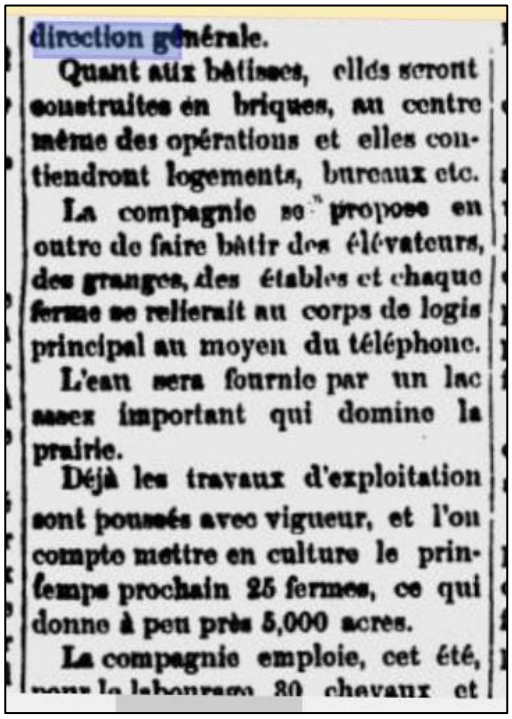


la vallée Qu'appelle, cantons 18 et 19, rangs 12, 13 et 14.

Fort bien arrosée et traversée dans toute son étendue par le chemin du Pacifique—ce qui lui donne une énorme importance—la ferme contient une étendue de dix milles carrés;

Celle-ci sera divisée en fermes de 200 acres chacune, exploitées séparément et la grande ferme proprement dite se composera d'exploitations plus petites qui seront soumises au contrôle absolu de la direction générale.

Quant aux bâtisses, elles seront



direction générale.

Quant aux bâtisses, elles seront construites en briques, au centre même des opérations et elles contiendront logements, bureaux etc.

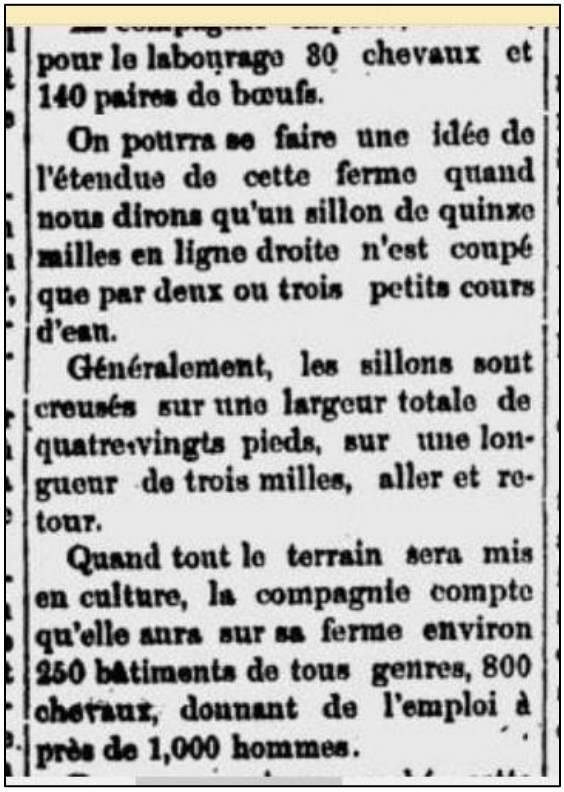
La compagnie se propose en outre de faire bâtir des élévateurs, des granges, des étables et chaque ferme se relierait au corps de logis principal au moyen du téléphone.

L'eau sera fournie par un lac assez important qui domine la prairie.

Déjà les travaux d'exploitation sont poussés avec vigueur, et l'on compte mettre en culture le printemps prochain 25 fermes, ce qui donne à peu près 5,000 acres.

La compagnie emploie, cet été,

Part 1 of 4 Part 2 of 4



pour le labourage 80 chevaux et 140 paires de bœufs.

On pourra se faire une idée de l'étendue de cette ferme quand nous dirons qu'un sillon de quinze milles en ligne droite n'est coupé que par deux ou trois petits cours d'eau.

Généralement, les sillons sont creusés sur une largeur totale de quatre-vingts pieds, sur une longueur de trois milles, aller et retour.

Quand tout le terrain sera mis en culture, la compagnie compte qu'elle aura sur sa ferme environ 250 bâtiments de tous genres, 800 chevaux, donnant de l'emploi à près de 1,000 hommes.

Part 3 of 4

250 bâtiments de tous genres, 800 chevaux, donnant de l'emploi à près de 1,000 hommes.

Dans un avenir rapproché, cette compagnie permettra au fermier d'acheter une ferme après l'avoir exploitée pendant cinq ans, il en aura seul alors la direction.

Exclusivement canadienne, cette compagnie a pour président M. John Northwood, de Chatham, Ont.; le major W. R. Bell en est le gérant et M. H. J. Elvert, le secrétaire.

Espérons que cette gigantesque entreprise sera couronnée d'un plein succès.

Part 4 of 4

(note start of article at bottom of previous collum not legible)

1882 – Aug. 3 – End of Track / End of Steel reaches eastern boundary of the Bell Farm, and arrives at Indian Head on Aug. 4

> "Construction is a business, as such metrics are important because they are the means of establishing progress as well as – most importantly - payment. Therefore, it should not be surprising that the CPR tracked its progress as its line moved westward from Winnipeg. There are detailed records [in the CPR Archives] showing the daily progress of CPR tracklaying in 1882 and 1883.
>
> At the end of the working day on 31 July 1882, the CPR track was at Mile 302.25 west of Winnipeg, just west of Sintaluta (Mile 302.0). By the end of the following day (1 August) 3.86 miles of track was laid, on 2nd August 3.60 miles, then on 3rd August 4.00 miles, taking it to Mile 313.71. On the 4th the steel had attained Mile 317.21.
>
> Based on the foregoing, steel reached Indian Head (Mile 314.1) sometime early on 4 August. Since the Bell farm was 0.8 track miles east of Indian Head, the steel reached there late the previous day."
>
> Source: Personal Communication: E-mail from Les Kozma to Frank Korvemaker, 4 Jan. 2023

1882 – August - Canadian Pacific Railway building its main line across Saskatchewan – c. 1882-83 *Typical views by Bell Farm employees as the CPR crew would have passed through the Bell Farm at Indian Head*

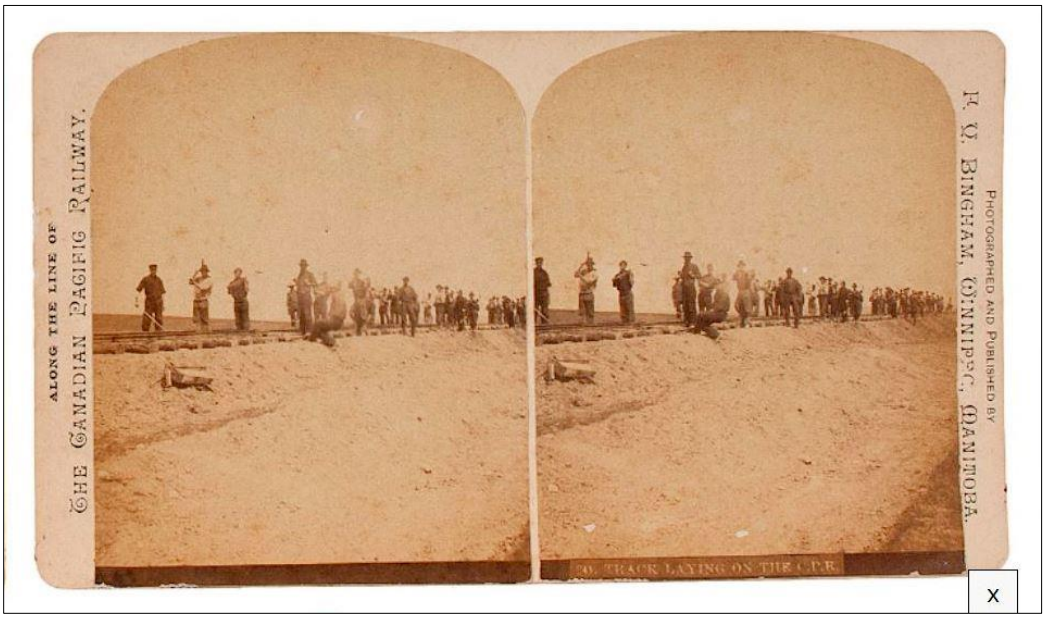
View looking west towards the end of track, showing the ditches created to build up the rail bed under the tracks - 39 kb

Source: Rapid Construction of The Canadian Pacific Railway, By E.T. Abbott, Member of the Engineers' Club of Minnesota. December 12, 1884

Unloading wooden rail ties off flatbed rail cars – 125 kb (Source: PAS: RB-8808[2])

Cleaning supplies off the flatbed cars – (Source: PAS: RB-8808[3]) 119 kb

Laying metal rails – 145 kb (Source: PAS: RB-8808[1])


ALONG THE LINE OF
THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.
PHOTOGRAPHED AND PUBLISHED BY
F. V. BINGHAM, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.
30. TRACK LAYING ON THE C.P.R.

Nailing steel rails onto the wooden ties
(Above) F.V. Bingham, Winnipeg photographer – "Track Laying on the C.P.R." – stereoscopic image (85 kb)
Source: http://orig.cowanauctions.com/auctions/item.aspx?id=183157#

Boarding Cars for crew to eat and sleep while building the CPR main line across the prairie – 134 kb (Source: PAS: RB-8808[4])

1882 – Aug. 7 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 5 – Major Bell at the Grand Union Hotel, Winnipeg.

"**HOTEL ARRVALS** – Grand Union: . . . . W.R. Bell, Qu'Appelle; . . . . . "

1882 – Aug. 7 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* – p. 8 – Sir. J. Rose and CPR officials at end of track on Aug. 6

(FRANK: Note This should be somewhere on the Bell Farm)

"The following distinguished visitors arrived by Saturday evening's regular train from the south: Sir John Ross, Sanford Fleming, Gorge Stephen, R.B. Angus, J.J. Hill, and a number of prominent railway officials. They proceeded at once by a special train, to the end of the track, where they arrived last evening, and witnessed the operation of track-laying at the rate of four miles per day. . . . . ."

1882 – Aug. 8 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 6 – CPR Officials at end of track – Bell Farm

"**RAILWAY AND RIVER:**

- The party including Geo. Stephen, Duncan McIntyre, Sir John Rose, Sandford Fleming, General Manager Van Horne and other distinguished individuals, who went out to the end of the track on Saturday night, were expected to return at four o'clock this morning."

And further down:

"-Track laying on the C.P.R. west still continues to be pushed on vigorously. On Thursday 3.9-10 miles was laid, Friday 3.3-5 miles, and on Saturday 3.3-10 miles, making a total mileage in three days of 10 ½ miles. The track has now reached South Qu'Appelle, 185 miles west of Brandon, and 317 miles from Winnipeg. A siding is also put in at that point, it being on the site of the great Bell Qu'Appelle farm."

1882 – Aug. 8 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – negative editorial comment on the Bell Farm's size

"THE EVILS OF OUR LAND SYSTEM . . . . . It is true, we in Canada need not fear any serious evil results from a false policy for some time. Yet a policy that encourages large tenant farmers is one not calculated to produce the best results, but is one that will impair the national prosperity. Large farms, like the Bell farm, worked by hired labour, must be poorly tilled, and, if numerous, must prove a positive hinderance to national advancement, as is seen in the large farms of the Southern States and of Australia. . . . . ."

1882 – Aug. 9 – Letter from Lieut. Gov. Edgar Dewdney to Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald

Dewdney explains why he recommended Pile of Bones (Regina) as the new capital of the NWT instead of Moose Jaw [*land not as good as at Regina*] or the Bell Farm (Indian Head) [*located too far east*].

https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/CollectionSearch/Pages/record.aspx?app=fonandcol&IdNumber=467128&new=-8585866793113422484

(Source: Library and Archives Canada: Sir John A. Macdonald Papers, Vol. 211, items 89712 – 89732)

1882 – Aug. 10 – *Emerson Daily International*, p. __ CPR builds siding at Bell Farm

"**RAILWAY NEWS** – Track laying on the C.P.R. west still continues to be pushed on vigorously. On Thursday 3 9/10 miles were laid, Friday 3 3/5 miles, and on Saturday 3 8/10 miles, making a

total mileage in three days of 10½ miles . The track has now reached South Qu'Appelle, one hundred and eighty-five miles west of Brandon, and three hundred and seventeen from Winnipeg. A siding is also put in at that point, it being the site of the great Bell Qu'Appelle farm."

1882 – Aug. 11 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 2 – End of CPR Track now at Bell Farm – good detail on construction

(FRANK: Note: Sir John Rose, one of the men accompanying C.J. Brydges (HBC Land Commissioner), in the article below, arrived at Indian Head (then briefly called "Qu'Appelle") 13 days after leaving London, England on July 21, 1882 – which would be about Aug. 2. This was then the end of steel, at the Bell Farm. Based on the average rate to track laying – 3.1 miles per day, it would have taken the CPR crew three to four days to cross the Bell Farm. – ref: Man. Daily Free Press, 4 Oct, 1882, p. 4)

CITY AND PROVINCIAL.

TO THE END OF THE TRACK.

An Account by Mr. Brydges of C. P. R. Construction and the Settlement of the Country.

Mr. C. J. Brydges gives the following interesting account of his recent trip westward along the line of the Pacific Railway :—

"In company with Sir John Rose, Mr. Herbert, of the Colonial Office, and Mr. W. W. Osborn, for many years president of the Illinois Central Railway, I went to the end of the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was then laid to a point about 335 miles west of Winnipeg. We went over the old Government line to Portage la Prairie, the air line, built last fall, not having been sufficiently repaired after the damage done by the spring floods to allow traffic to run over it. It is expected that it will be ready in about a week or ten days, when the distance to the Portage will be reduced about fifteen miles.

"From Portage la Prairie to Flat Creek, about thirty-five miles west of Brandon, the track was laid last year, and for nearly fifty miles beyond, the grading was also partially completed last year. This part of the line, viz., from Portage la Prairie to Flat Creek, suffered considerably from the spring flood. The bridge at Brandon was not built sufficiently high and the water flowed over the floor of the bridge. The piers were a good deal damaged, and are to be rebuilt and raised above flood water. A large number of culverts were washed out, and are being replaced by pile structures, leaving sufficient water-ways to prevent, it is hoped, future difficulty. The track on the old road is also being raised and ballasted. By the fall considerable improvement will have been effected and the road-bed, which was not originally well constructed, will be very materially improved by the work which is now being done. West of Flat Creek there is a very marked improvement in the mode of construction and the condition of the road-bed. The grading is being very well done, the banks being wide and of good height, the track kept well above the level of the prairie, no cuttings anywhere, and good substantial pile openings to allow of the free passage of water where necessary. From Flat Creek to Moose Jaw Bone Creek, the grading will average about 17,000 yards to the mile. I do not believe that any prairie road has ever been built better or in a more perfect and substantial manner, and very few roads indeed that I have seen in a long experience have been so well constructed in the first instance. The rails are all of steel, with an excellent joint, having four bolts and nuts in each, and the sleepers average 2,640 per mile, thus securing ample strength and solidity, and the whole is thoroughly well spiked throughout. The grading is in a very forward state up to Moose Jaw Bone Creek, and the number of teams and men at work will keep the grading out of the way of the tracklayers to a point beyond Old Wives Lake, if the track is laid at the rate of four miles for every working day.

WONDERFUL TRACKLAYING.

I witnessed the operation of tracklaying, and never saw in any part of the world so perfect a system and so complete and thorough an organization. At least four and frequently five trains a day are despatched from Winnipeg, each train containing everything necessary to lay one mile of track. The cars have a mile of rails, a mile of joint fastenings, a mile of bolts and nuts, a mile of spikes, and a mile of ties. For every ninth or tenth mile the train contains in addition the material necessary to lay a long siding, comprising rails, ties, spikes, fish plates,

Part 1 of 5 Part 2 of 5

etc., and two switches. With some of these trains are also sent a supply of piles and lumber for waterways, and also poles and wire and insulators for a telegraph line. At the front at the extreme end of the track is a boarding train, containing everything necessary for the feeding and lodging of the 250 men engaged in tracklaying. About 40 teams are at the front, engaged in hauling the ties from each train as it arrives. This enables the men distributing and spacing the ties, to keep about half a mile ahead of the tracklayers. The actual tracklaying is done with marvellous rapidity, and under the most perfect system of well organized labor brings out the most remarkable results ever seen upon railway construction. In sixteen days, 50½ miles of track were laid, being an average of 3 10 miles a day. The greatest length laid in one day has hitherto been 3.90, and the foreman assured me that he would not be satisfied until he had succeeded in laying five miles in one day, and that he had no doubt of doing so.

"The extent of average daily tracklaying done has never yet been equalled on any railway in the world, and could only have been done by the most complete and perfect organization, under which every man employed does the maximum amount of work with the least possible apparent expenditure of force or effort.

THE STAFF AND HOW IT IS ORGANIZED.

The boarding houses are models of cleanliness, with good food and every reasonable comfort. They are advancing now across the prairie at a rate of nearly four miles a day. The men are remarkably healthy, the proportion on the sick list being extremely small. Surfacers in large gangs are following the tracklayers, putting the track into very fair shape, and ballast trains are at work at the places where they are most required. At every siding a fair-sized station building is being constructed,

Part 3 of 5

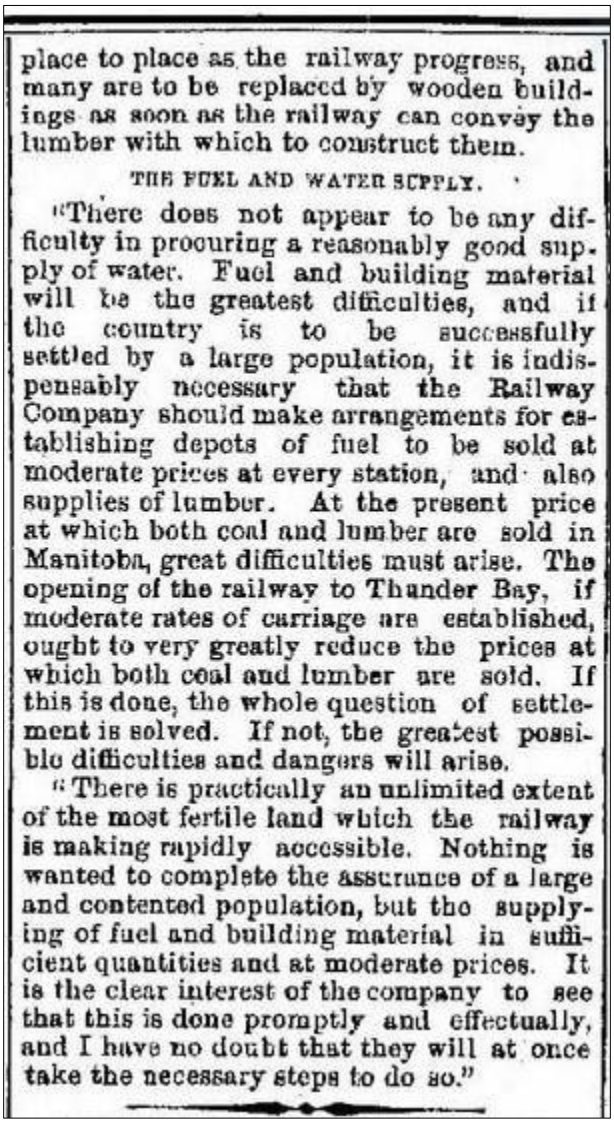
water tanks put up, and the needful appliances provided for carrying traffic as soon as it is possible to do so. Telegraph builders are also busy at work, erecting poles and stringing the wire, and nearly every night it is possible to send messages from the extreme point to which the track is laid. The regulating system and organization under which this great amount of work is being successfully carried out day after day, without a break or a hitch, is the most successful and remarkable operation which I have seen in an experience, connected with railways, extending now over a period of nearly forty years.

THE BIG BELL FARM.

"The track had reached the Bell Farm, south of Qu'Appelle, where a considerable amount of breaking is being done this year. A few of us drove across the prairie to the Hudson's Bay post in the beautiful and picturesque valley of the Qu'Appelle, a distance of about 20 miles. Leaving the post about nine o'clock on Monday morning, we drove back to the line, and leaving the end of the track about 2 o'clock reached Winnipeg at about half past 6 on Tuesday morning, thus covering the distance of upwards of 350 miles in less than 22 hours, in a journey which has hitherto occupied from 7 to 10 days Sir John Rose had performed the journey from Liverpool to Qu'Appelle, including a stoppage of more than a day at Newport, after his arrival in New York, in almost exactly 14 days.

"For a new line, the road is in very fair condition, and will continue steadily to improve as the surfaces and ballast trains follow over the newly laid track. Settlers are to be seen dotted in large numbers over the prairie on each side of the line, and a large amount of land is being broken. At every newly established station numerous tents, of large and small size, on which are to be seen conspicuous signs rough-and-ready in execution, announce that they comprise hotels, taverns, stores for the sale of all kinds of goods, and in several cases the sign of civilisation is denoted by the words "billiard hall." Many of these tents move on from

Part 4 of 5



place to place as the railway progress, and many are to be replaced by wooden buildings as soon as the railway can convey the lumber with which to construct them.

THE FUEL AND WATER SUPPLY.

"There does not appear to be any difficulty in procuring a reasonably good supply of water. Fuel and building material will be the greatest difficulties, and if the country is to be successfully settled by a large population, it is indispensably necessary that the Railway Company should make arrangements for establishing depots of fuel to be sold at moderate prices at every station, and also supplies of lumber. At the present price at which both coal and lumber are sold in Manitoba, great difficulties must arise. The opening of the railway to Thunder Bay, if moderate rates of carriage are established, ought to very greatly reduce the prices at which both coal and lumber are sold. If this is done, the whole question of settlement is solved. If not, the greatest possible difficulties and dangers will arise.

"There is practically an unlimited extent of the most fertile land which the railway is making rapidly accessible. Nothing is wanted to complete the assurance of a large and contented population, but the supplying of fuel and building material in sufficient quantities and at moderate prices. It is the clear interest of the company to see that this is done promptly and effectually, and I have no doubt that they will at once take the necessary steps to do so."

Part 5 of 5

1882 – Mid August – construction starts on the Bell Farm (ref: March 7, 1885 - *The Tasmanian*)

1882 – Aug. 13 – construction of buildings start – (ref: "Engineering" magazine, Vol. 38, 1884 – p. 77-78)

1882 – Aug. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Extensive editorial about the Bell Farm Squatters, includes Coleman, Mackie, Irwin, and Brown.

Manitoba Free Press
DAILY EDITION.

LET the journalist defend the doctrines of the party which he approves, let him criticise and condemn the party which he does not approve, reserving always his right to applaud his opponents or censure his friends, as the truth may require, and he will be independent enough for a free country.—*Garfield.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1882.

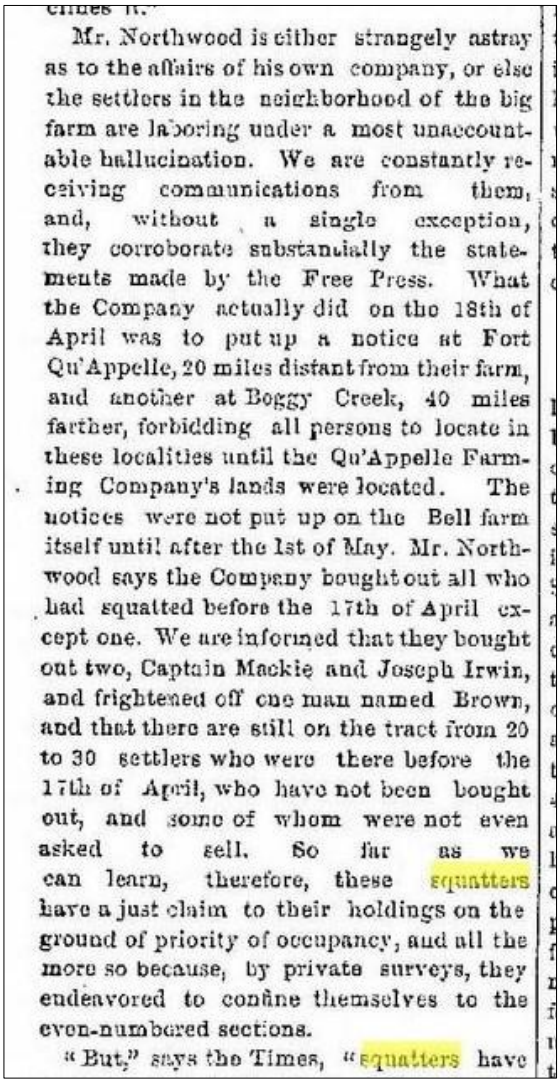
THOSE QU'APPELLE SQUATTERS AGAIN.

Mr. John Northwood, the President of the Qu'Appelle Farming Company, takes exception, as is quite natural, to the position of the Free Press on the dispute between his company and the squatters on its tract. We cannot state his case better than by quoting the Times, which, as the ready champion of all the speculative companies, of course does not make any exception of Mr. Northwood's :—

"The Qu'Appelle Company took possession on April 17, and the day after notices were posted warning squatters that the land had been purchased from the Government. But every squatter, with one exception, who had taken up land prior to April 17 was compensated in full. The one exception was a squatter named Coleman, who sought to blackmail the company to the tune of $5,000. The company offer to submit the case to arbitration, but he declines it."

Mr. Northwood is either strangely astray

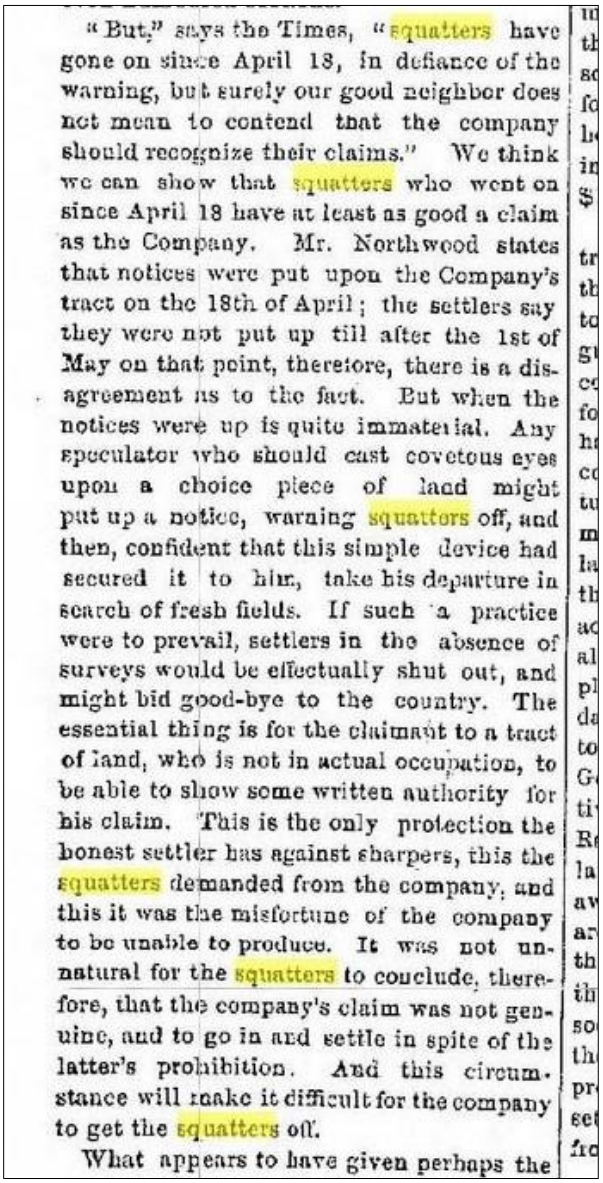
Part 1 of 7 135 kb



Mr. Northwood is either strangely astray as to the affairs of his own company, or else the settlers in the neighborhood of the big farm are laboring under a most unaccountable hallucination. We are constantly receiving communications from them, and, without a single exception, they corroborate substantially the statements made by the Free Press. What the Company actually did on the 18th of April was to put up a notice at Fort Qu'Appelle, 20 miles distant from their farm, and another at Boggy Creek, 40 miles farther, forbidding all persons to locate in these localities until the Qu'Appelle Farming Company's lands were located. The notices were not put up on the Bell farm itself until after the 1st of May. Mr. Northwood says the Company bought out all who had squatted before the 17th of April except one. We are informed that they bought out two, Captain Mackie and Joseph Irwin, and frightened off one man named Brown, and that there are still on the tract from 20 to 30 settlers who were there before the 17th of April, who have not been bought out, and some of whom were not even asked to sell. So far as we can learn, therefore, these squatters have a just claim to their holdings on the ground of priority of occupancy, and all the more so because, by private surveys, they endeavored to confine themselves to the even-numbered sections.

"But," says the Times, "squatters have

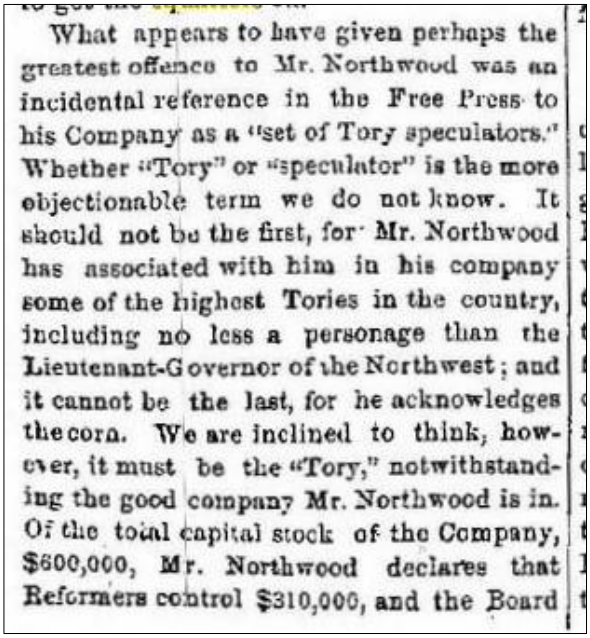
Part 2 of 7 148 kb



"But," says the Times, "squatters have gone on since April 18, in defiance of the warning, but surely our good neighbor does not mean to contend that the company should recognize their claims." We think we can show that squatters who went on since April 18 have at least as good a claim as the Company. Mr. Northwood states that notices were put upon the Company's tract on the 18th of April; the settlers say they were not put up till after the 1st of May on that point, therefore, there is a disagreement as to the fact. But when the notices were up is quite immaterial. Any speculator who should cast covetous eyes upon a choice piece of land might put up a notice, warning squatters off, and then, confident that this simple device had secured it to him, take his departure in search of fresh fields. If such a practice were to prevail, settlers in the absence of surveys would be effectually shut out, and might bid good-bye to the country. The essential thing is for the claimant to a tract of land, who is not in actual occupation, to be able to show some written authority for his claim. This is the only protection the honest settler has against sharpers, this the squatters demanded from the company, and this it was the misfortune of the company to be unable to produce. It was not unnatural for the squatters to conclude, therefore, that the company's claim was not genuine, and to go in and settle in spite of the latter's prohibition. And this circumstance will make it difficult for the company to get the squatters off.

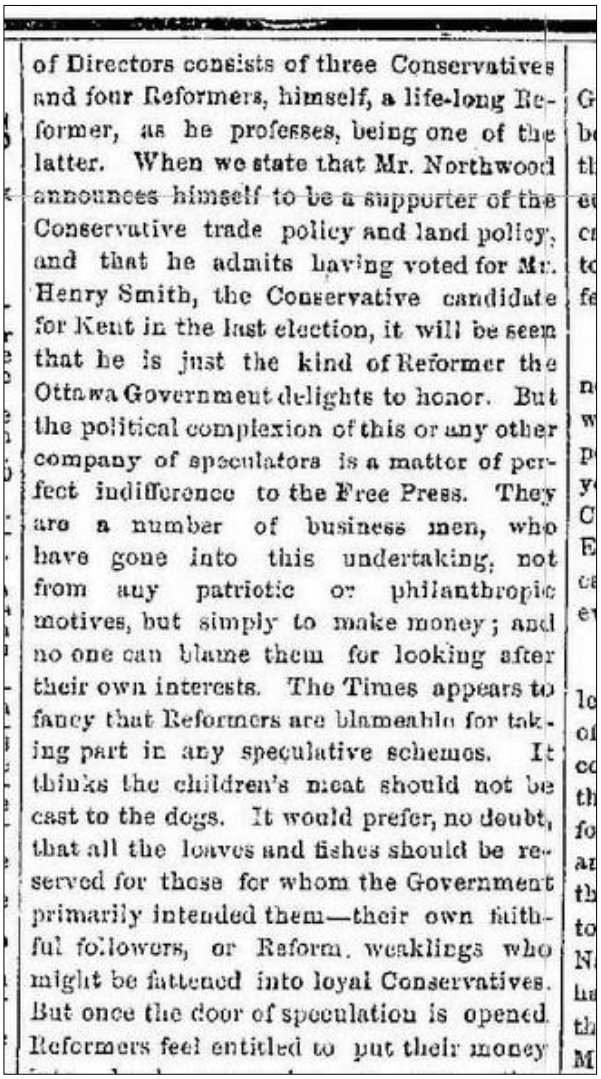
What appears to have given perhaps the

Part 3 of 7 164 kb



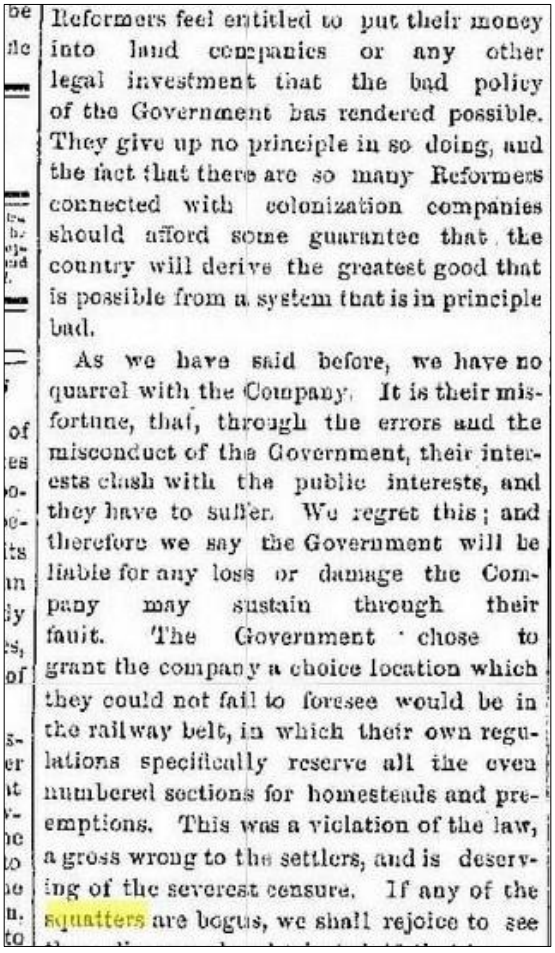
What appears to have given perhaps the greatest offence to Mr. Northwood was an incidental reference in the Free Press to his Company as a "set of Tory speculators." Whether "Tory" or "speculator" is the more objectionable term we do not know. It should not be the first, for Mr. Northwood has associated with him in his company some of the highest Tories in the country, including no less a personage than the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest; and it cannot be the last, for he acknowledges the corn. We are inclined to think, however, it must be the "Tory," notwithstanding the good company Mr. Northwood is in. Of the total capital stock of the Company, $600,000, Mr. Northwood declares that Reformers control $310,000, and the Board

Part 4 of 7 97 kb



of Directors consists of three Conservatives and four Reformers, himself, a life-long Reformer, as he professes, being one of the latter. When we state that Mr. Northwood announces himself to be a supporter of the Conservative trade policy and land policy, and that he admits having voted for Mr. Henry Smith, the Conservative candidate for Kent in the last election, it will be seen that he is just the kind of Reformer the Ottawa Government delights to honor. But the political complexion of this or any other company of speculators is a matter of perfect indifference to the Free Press. They are a number of business men, who have gone into this undertaking, not from any patriotic or philanthropic motives, but simply to make money; and no one can blame them for looking after their own interests. The Times appears to fancy that Reformers are blameable for taking part in any speculative schemes. It thinks the children's meat should not be cast to the dogs. It would prefer, no doubt, that all the loaves and fishes should be reserved for those for whom the Government primarily intended them—their own faithful followers, or Reform weaklings who might be fattened into loyal Conservatives. But once the door of speculation is opened Reformers feel entitled to put their money

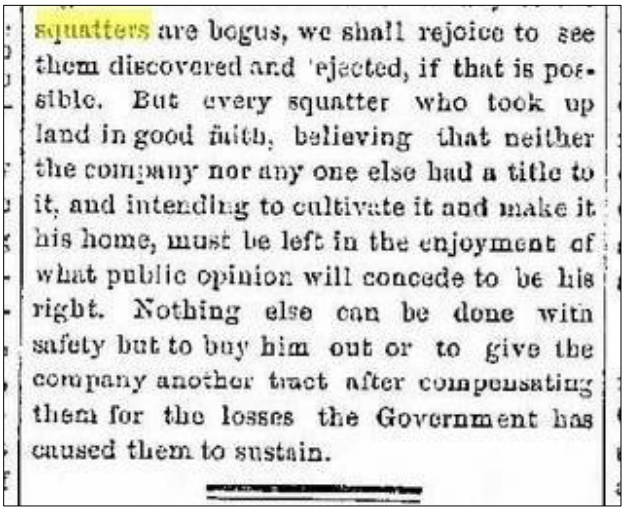
Part 5 of 7 146 kb



Reformers feel entitled to put their money into land companies or any other legal investment that the bad policy of the Government has rendered possible. They give up no principle in so doing, and the fact that there are so many Reformers connected with colonization companies should afford some guarantee that the country will derive the greatest good that is possible from a system that is in principle bad.

As we have said before, we have no quarrel with the Company. It is their misfortune, that, through the errors and the misconduct of the Government, their interests clash with the public interests, and they have to suffer. We regret this; and therefore we say the Government will be liable for any loss or damage the Company may sustain through their fault. The Government chose to grant the company a choice location which they could not fail to foresee would be in the railway belt, in which their own regulations specifically reserve all the even numbered sections for homesteads and pre-emptions. This was a violation of the law, a gross wrong to the settlers, and is deserving of the severest censure. If any of the squatters are bogus, we shall rejoice to see

Part 6 of 7 142 kb



squatters are bogus, we shall rejoice to see them discovered and ejected, if that is possible. But every squatter who took up land in good faith, believing that neither the company nor any one else had a title to it, and intending to cultivate it and make it his home, must be left in the enjoyment of what public opinion will concede to be his right. Nothing else can be done with safety but to buy him out or to give the company another tract after compensating them for the losses the Government has caused them to sustain.

Part 7 of 7 82 kb

1882 – Aug. 23 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 8 – Major Bell in Winnipeg at the Grand Union Hotel

"**HOTEL ARRIVALS. . . . .** GRAND UNION. . . . . .W.R. Bell Qu'Appelle . . . "

1882 – Aug 23 – Diary of Robert Martin – travel to Lumsden from Ontario by train, boat and wagon

Wednesday August 23rd

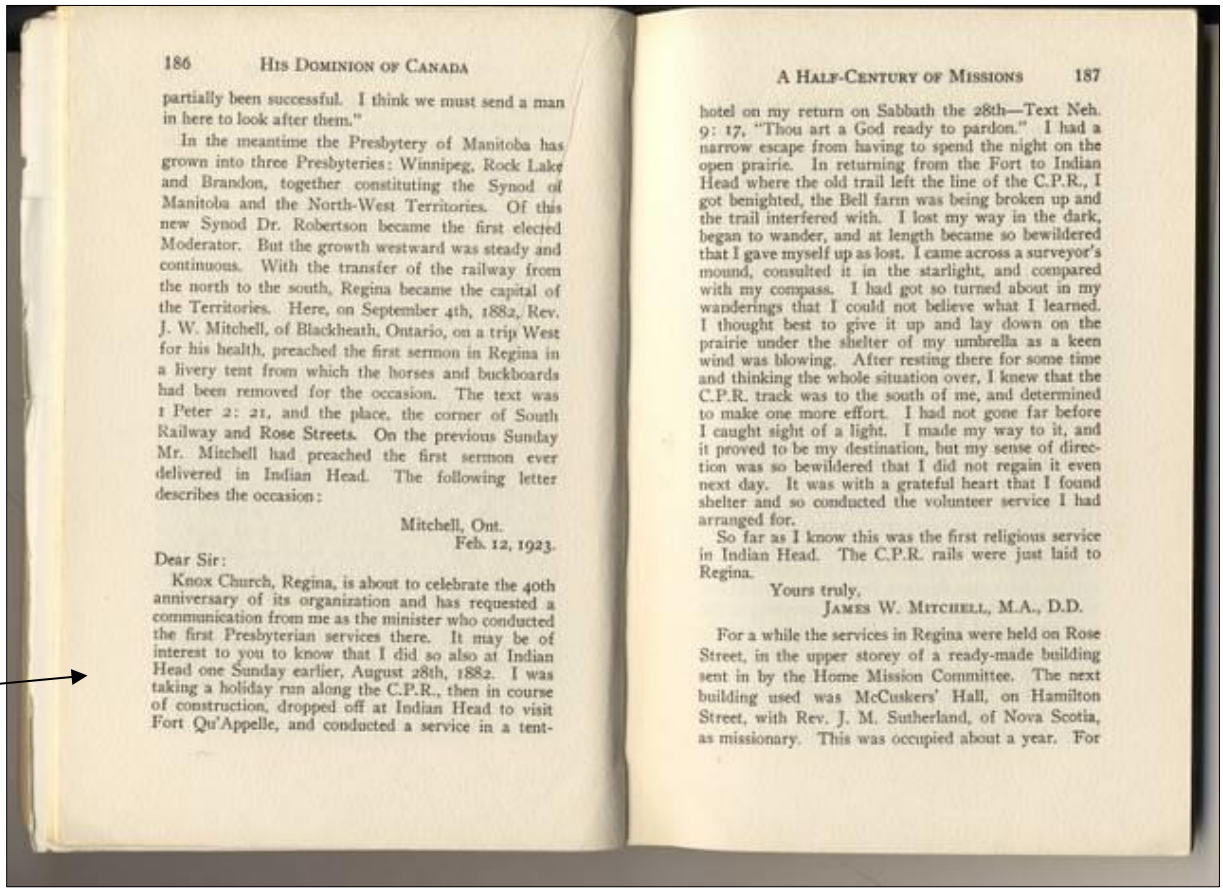
We rose this a.m. feeling pretty stiff and tired. The mosquitoes were so troublesome that we didn't have a satisfactory sleep. We rose at 4, and after the usual order of packing up, breakfast, and loading everything on the waggon, we started away at 6 o'clock. All forenoon we passed through a pretty piece of country. The sloughs are mostly all dry. A great number of bluffs— small scrubby bushes grow around them. Along the road we raised a covey of prairie chickens. The guns were ahead; however Jack Bruce killed a couple with his revolver. We passed a very pretty spot, quite a lot of timber (poplars) growing on the face

of the Squirrel Hills. A pretty field of oats too. At 11.30 we stopped on the Bell Farm, on the bank of a creek for dinner. We had prairie chicken stew. We started again at 1.30. Here we crossed the R.R. track and left the H.B. Co's trail and took the R.R. trail. The H.B. trail turns and goes to N. Qu'Appelle. It is a good road, but the R.R. trail to S. Qu'Appelle is quite rough. We reached Qu'Appelle at 4 o'clock. A bloomin' town. The far famed Qu'Appelle has 15 tents big and little *all told*. Not one wooden house. We got six measly loaves of bread for $1.25. They were small but good weight at 4 lbs. each. Four miles past this we camped (6.30) for the night. We got good water here. Mosquitoes bad. Had duck for supper. Smoked out the tent after our work was done. South of this is the prettiest country we saw anywhere so far. A great many small bluffs. We fixed the mosquitoes o.k. and went to bed at 9 o'clock.

1882 – Aug. 26 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – "Major Bell" (of Indian Head?) at Winnipeg Rifle match:

CANADA CENTRES in Winnipeg. At the Manitoba Rifle Association matches, concluded yesterday, nine members of different Wimbledon teams took part. They were:—Lieutenant Morris, Major Bell, Lieut. Waldo, Capt. Wastie, W. Clark, D. Huston, E. S. Downes, Alex. McIntyre and Baxter.

1882 – Aug. 28 – Presbyterian minister, Rev. James W. Mitchell, gets lost while trying to cross the Bell Farm, as the trails were being plowed over:



186 HIS DOMINION OF CANADA

partially been successful. I think we must send a man in here to look after them."

In the meantime the Presbytery of Manitoba has grown into three Presbyteries: Winnipeg, Rock Lake and Brandon, together constituting the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Of this new Synod Dr. Robertson became the first elected Moderator. But the growth westward was steady and continuous. With the transfer of the railway from the north to the south, Regina became the capital of the Territories. Here, on September 4th, 1882, Rev. J. W. Mitchell, of Blackheath, Ontario, on a trip West for his health, preached the first sermon in Regina in a livery tent from which the horses and buckboards had been removed for the occasion. The text was 1 Peter 2: 21, and the place, the corner of South Railway and Rose Streets. On the previous Sunday Mr. Mitchell had preached the first sermon ever delivered in Indian Head. The following letter describes the occasion:

Mitchell, Ont.
Feb. 12, 1923.

Dear Sir:

Knox Church, Regina, is about to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its organization and has requested a communication from me as the minister who conducted the first Presbyterian services there. It may be of interest to you to know that I did so also at Indian Head one Sunday earlier, August 28th, 1882. I was taking a holiday run along the C.P.R., then in course of construction, dropped off at Indian Head to visit Fort Qu'Appelle, and conducted a service in a tent-

A HALF-CENTURY OF MISSIONS 187

hotel on my return on Sabbath the 28th—Text Neh. 9: 17, "Thou art a God ready to pardon." I had a narrow escape from having to spend the night on the open prairie. In returning from the Fort to Indian Head where the old trail left the line of the C.P.R., I got benighted, the Bell farm was being broken up and the trail interfered with. I lost my way in the dark, began to wander, and at length became so bewildered that I gave myself up as lost. I came across a surveyor's mound, consulted it in the starlight, and compared with my compass. I had got so turned about in my wanderings that I could not believe what I learned. I thought best to give it up and lay down on the prairie under the shelter of my umbrella as a keen wind was blowing. After resting there for some time and thinking the whole situation over, I knew that the C.P.R. track was to the south of me, and determined to make one more effort. I had not gone far before I caught sight of a light. I made my way to it, and it proved to be my destination, but my sense of direction was so bewildered that I did not regain it even next day. It was with a grateful heart that I found shelter and so conducted the volunteer service I had arranged for.

So far as I know this was the first religious service in Indian Head. The C.P.R. rails were just laid to Regina.

Yours truly,
JAMES W. MITCHELL, M.A., D.D.

For a while the services in Regina were held on Rose Street, in the upper storey of a ready-made building sent in by the Home Mission Committee. The next building used was McCuskers' Hall, on Hamilton Street, with Rev. J. M. Sutherland, of Nova Scotia, as missionary. This was occupied about a year. For

Source: "*His Dominion of Canada: A Half Century of Missions*", by Dr. Edmund H. Oliver, 1932. 531 kb

1882 – Sept. 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Editorial comment on Bell Farm squatters

> "We are glad to learn that the action of the Free Press, in calling public attention to the rights of the squatters on the Bell Farming Company's land, has had its effect. A telegram from Ottawa states that the Government has issued an order to the Dominion Lands Agent at Qu'Appelle that the rights of bona fide squatters there should be respected. It is to be hoped that this incident will serve a warning to the Government not to repeat the wrong of granting speculative companies any lands in the railway belt, whatever they may do elsewhere."

1882 – Sept. 17 – further report on squatters from E. J. Brooks letter

So. Qu'Appelle
17 Sept. 1882

. . . We heard yesterday through two different sources that the government had decided to give us our land. If true this is good news. The squatters at Regina are a worse lot than we are here. The govt. have been trying to get them to give up the land and they not only refuse to do so but have banded together and go armed and are determined to fight it out. Probably the govt. will give them the land all right. I don't believe the Mounted Police will make Regina their headquarters as their major has condemned the place on account of the scarcity of wood and the poor quality of the water. The water all through this country is

1882 – Sept. 20 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Bell Farm site would have been a better site than Regina for location of the NWT capital.

"**A FLOOD OF TESTIMONY** – WINNIPEG TIMES . The soil at Pile of Bones is not of the best quality + + + The best land round about there, is that on the Bell farm, which beyond doubt would have been the best site."

1882 – Sept. 23 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell Farm preferable to Regina for NWT capital location

"**PILE OF BONES** - . . . . . the *Free Press* . . . . . has no more interest in Qu'Appelle or Moose Jaw or any other town site, than it has in Hellgoland. . . . . we have as much ground for accusing our contemporary of an interest in the Bell farm, which it prefers to Pile of Bones. Even the *Times* has never had the courage to commend Mr. Dewdney's selection."

1882 – Sept. 23 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell stays at the Grand Union hotel in Winnipeg

"**PERSONAL** . . . . . Major W.R. Bell, of the great Bell farm at Qu'Appelle, arrived from the West last night, and is at the Grand Union."

1882 – Sept. 30 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Fowler Steam Plow officials visit Bell Farm

STEAM PLOUGHING.

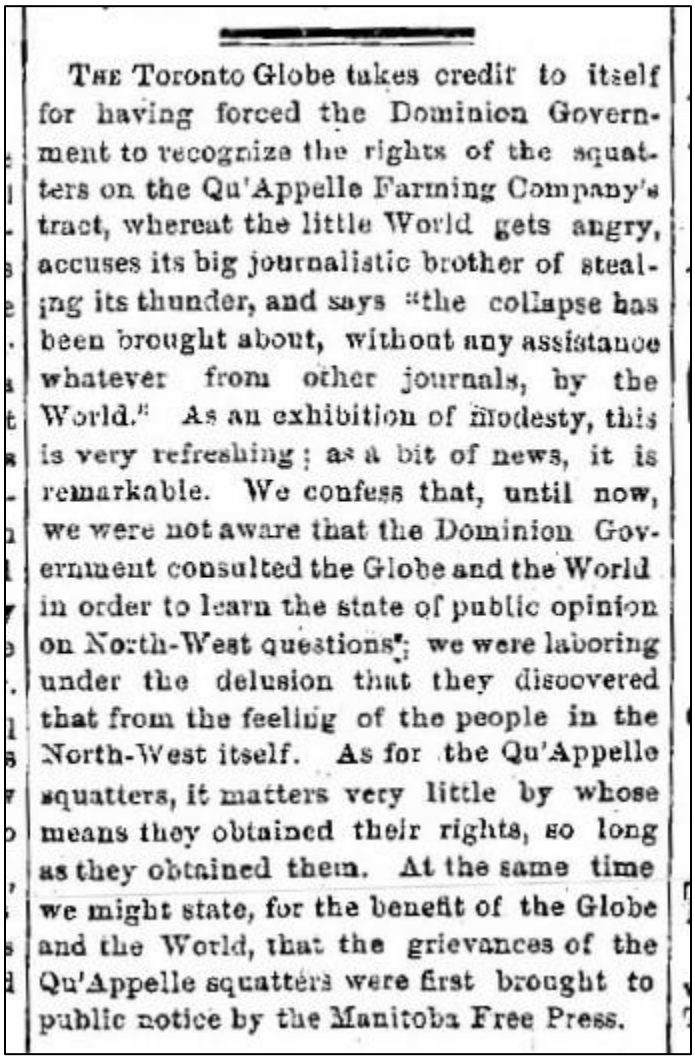
An Important Scheme Suggested.

Mr. David Greig, senior partner of the firm of John Fowler & Co., of Leeds, England, returned last evening from a trip to the west, accompanied by Mr. J. G. Allen, the representative of the firm here and in the Northwestern States. Mr. Greig, who arrived here on Saturday evening last, on a holiday trip, is exceedingly well pleased with his trip to the end of the C. P. R. track. Leaving here on Wednesday morning, he visited the Qu'Appelle country, including the Bell farm and Fort Qu'Appelle, directing his observations particularly to the adaption of the country to the use of steam ploughs. As a result he is quite convinced that the steam ploughs manufactured by his firm would be of very great service in the North-West. The greater depth to which the ploughs would penetrate would remove the inequalities of the surface which now exist and which render ordinary ploughing very difficult. Then as to the cost, it is estimated that the work could be done, by means of the steam plough for half the money. The case of the mammoth Qu'Appelle farm, over which Mr. Greig was driven, is taken as an illustration. They have employed there in breaking, 150 oxen and 20 mules, each gang plough requiring 10 oxen or 8 mules and two men. It is calculated that the work done by all this force could be accomplished by means of a steam plough worked by five men and burning 2,300 lbs. of coal per day. The original cost of the oxen and mules is reckoned at about £4,400, or $22,000, and that of the steam plough £3,000, or $15,000. Other advantages would be the superior character of the work done by the steam plough in ploughing to a greater depth, and in doing the work at the season in which it can be done to the greatest advantage. Mr. Greig recommends the organization of a company in Winnipeg, with a capital of $100,000, to import three sets of the ploughs.

1882 – Sept. 30 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell off to Ottawa

"PERSONALS – Major Bell, of the great Bell farm, left yesterday for Ottawa."

1882 – Oct. 2 – *Man. Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Report on Squatters Rights



THE Toronto Globe takes credit to itself for having forced the Dominion Government to recognize the rights of the squatters on the Qu'Appelle Farming Company's tract, whereat the little World gets angry, accuses its big journalistic brother of stealing its thunder, and says "the collapse has been brought about, without any assistance whatever from other journals, by the World." As an exhibition of modesty, this is very refreshing; as a bit of news, it is remarkable. We confess that, until now, we were not aware that the Dominion Government consulted the Globe and the World in order to learn the state of public opinion on North-West questions; we were laboring under the delusion that they discovered that from the feeling of the people in the North-West itself. As for the Qu'Appelle squatters, it matters very little by whose means they obtained their rights, so long as they obtained them. At the same time we might state, for the benefit of the Globe and the World, that the grievances of the Qu'Appelle squatters were first brought to public notice by the Manitoba Free Press.

1882 – Oct. 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate advertises meeting. (not same as Bell Farm)

NOTICE.

Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate.

Notice is hereby given that a full meeting of the shareholders of the above corporation will be held at the Hotel Brunswick parlors on Monday, October 23rd, 1882, at 8 p. m., for the election of a Board of Directors and officers for the ensuing year.

J. C. RICHARDSON,
Secretary.

G. FRASER,
Superintendent.

oct3-4

62 kb

1882 – Oct. 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate acquires more land at Moose Jaw. (not same as Bell Farm)

> "The Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate yesterday purchased nine additional sections in the Moose Jaw District, near Regina. This, with former purchases, nearly complete three full townships. The company's two steam plows, of breaking capacity of one hundred acres daily, are completed and are expected here by the 15th inst."

1882 – Oct. 4 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun* , p. 8 – Major Bell back from trip to the East

> "**PERSONAL** – Major Bell, of the Bell farm, has returned from his trip east."

1882 – Oct. 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* p. 8 – Bell Farm delegates to Ottawa disgusted with meeting result.

> "A dispatch from Ottawa says that a deputation consisting of the Qu'Appelle Farming Company, who had several interviews with the Government lately in reference to their enterprise, did not receive that treatment they thought they were entitled to, and left Ottawa greatly disgusted. the government are endeavouring to cut down the grant of about 64,000 acres of land they made to the company to 44,000, owing to the interposition of other parties who want a number of sections of the company's land."

1882 – Oct. 11 – *Emerson Daily International,* p. – Extensive article on the Mammoth Bell Farm at Indian Head

1882 – Oct. 13 – *Emerson Daily International*, p. 3 – Contract plowing by Sims and Armington – started in spring.

> ". . . The International had a talk with Mr. Armington, of Sims & Armington, railway contractors, who is superintending contract for breaking several thousand acres of the Bell Farm. Mr. Armington broke up several thousand acres on the Maple River in North Dakota, on the line of the Norther Pacific Railway. . . . "

1882 – Oct. 13 – *Almonte Gazette* – Details on CPR construction & report on Bell Farm squatters

The Gazette.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1882.

WESTERN WANDERINGS.

The Syndicate—How the Road is Being Built—The Bell Farm—The Qu 'Appelle Country—General Impressions—Personals, &c.

THE SYNDICATE.

The work of constructing the prairie section of the C. P. R. has been prosecuted with remarkable vigor during the present summer. Whatever may be thought of the lopsided bargain made by the Government with the Syndicate, there can be but one opinion as to the enterprise displayed by the company and their contractors, Langdon & Shepherd, in building five hundred miles of road in one season. The grading and track laying thus far completed this summer has never yet been equalled on any railway in the world; but at the same time it will be equally safe to assert that on no other railway can five hundred miles of continuous track be found that was so easily constructed and required as little bridging and cutting. The profits of the Syndicate upon this prairie section, as has been pointed out many times before, will be enormous, and in this respect also will eclipse anything ever before heard of in railroad construction. But the ratification of the remarkable bargain is now a question of the past; it must be carried out by the country though it should bankrupt her. The Syndicate is pushing the work forward in a manner that inspires confidence and helps to allay, for a time at least, the widespread dissatisfaction in Manitoba and elsewhere at the giant monopoly that has been created. Both political parties must acknowledge that the men composing the Syndicate are clever men—as sharp, shrewd and energetic as can be found in any country. If they proved themselves too sharp for our Government, and got the best of the bargain, it is not to be expected that they would voluntarily relinquish any one of the many advantages they have secured, or fail to exact their pound of flesh as it is written in the bond. They would not be the successful business men that they are—they would not be the millionaires that they are—had they in the past pursued a policy so much at variance with the orthodox business principles of the present age. I must confess that I have a high admiration for the men composing the C. P. R. Syndicate, and in nothing more than the fact that the active men among them are Canadians. If Canada must be fleeced out of millions, there is a sort of painful con-

Part 1 of 8 – 102 kb

Part 2 of 8 - 87 kb

solation in knowing that it will go into Canadian pockets; and if the Dominion is to pay tribute for a century or more to a gigantic soulless corporation, it is some satisfaction to know that we are not as the Egyptians are, paying tribute to foreigners. In my humble opinion the only redeeming features about the Syndicate are, first, their nationality, and second their great energy in prosecuting the work. For these two great mercies let us be duly grateful.

TRACK LAYING.

The operation of track laying at the rate of three and four miles per day can only be carried on under a perfect system and thorough organization. For a hundred miles in advance of the iron the graders are at work. Each sub-contractor is allotted one or two miles of grading, according to the nature of the work, and when he completes that portion he moves on to the front and takes another mile or two. The graders keep well ahead of the track layers, and the steady and rapid progress that has been made this summer is due to the systematic manner this portion of the work has been done. Mr. Tim. Foley, of Almonte, who occupies a responsible position with Langdon & Shepherd, has charge of this branch of the work—the right man in the right place. I am glad to learn that both he and his brother (Mike), also engaged with Langdon & Shepherd, will profit to the extent of several thousands by their season's work.

Part 3 of 8 - 102 kb

several thousands by their season's work. Track laying was witnessed with considerable interest. Every day four and frequently five trains are despatched from Winnipeg, each train containing everything required to lay one mile of track. The trains have a mile of rails, a mile of joint fastenings, a mile of bolts and nuts, a mile of spikes, and a mile of ties. For every ninth or tenth mile the extra material required for a long siding and two switches is also sent forward at its proper time. With some of these trains are also sent a supply of piles and lumber for waterways, and also poles, wire and insulators for the telegraph line that is being put up as fast as the iron is put down. At the time of my visit, Brandview was the headquar-

Part 4 of 8 – 57 kb

ters of the contractors, and from here to the front the line was still in their hands. Supplies in immense quantities were stored here, and were sent forward daily as required. At the extreme end of the track is a boarding train, for the track layers. These cars are kept shoved to the front as the iron is laid. The construction trains throw off the ties, iron, &c., as near the end of track as they can run, and forty teams are engaged in hauling the ties and distributing them along the track. The iron rails are carried forward on lorries drawn by horses. The actual track laying is done with marvellous rapidity, and all the work is so well organized that the most remarkable results ever seen in railway construction have been accomplished. From three to four miles have been laid regularly day after day, and this rate of progress will be continued until the cold weather puts a stop to operations for this season. Surfacers in large groups are following the track layers, putting the line into shape, and ballast trains are at work at the places where they are most required. At the most important sidings fair sized station buildings are being constructed, water tanks put up, and the needful appliances provided for carrying traffic as soon as it is possible to do so, which will be as soon as the traffic presents itself.

THE BELL FARM.

Part 5 of 8 – 97 kb

THE BELL FARM.

Driving from South Qu' Appelle, a railway station north to Fort Qu' Appelle, a distance of twenty miles, we pass through the centre of the Bell Farm. This farm contains about 60,000 acres, *en bloc*, on both sides of the railway, and is owned by a joint stock company. The manager is Mr. W. B. Bell, at one time station agent at Pakenham, and lately manager of the Kelso farm in Minnesota. The land is the choicest in the district. No crop has yet been raised, but about one thousand acres have been broken for next season. Several buildings are being put up for the accommodation of the farm hands; they are being built of boulders picked up on the prairie. Our driver, named Boyd, was one of the original squatters on a half section of the land claimed by the company, and he made us acquainted with the grievances of himself and friends. There appeared to be a very strong feeling of hostility between the settlers and the squire-archy of the big farm; and if the rights of the settlers are not respected there will be trouble ahead for both parties. But the settlers will eventually have to give way and move somewhere else, as the farming company and the Government are too strong for them. Several of them have been bought off, but quite a number still resolve to hold the fort and fight it out to the last.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS.

My impressions of the country west of Brandon to Regina may be briefly given. The land is, in the main, good; small percentage of wet land; soil lighter than in southern Manitoba, and not so desirable; clay subsoil; gravel in some places; stones thinly scattered over the face of the whole country; no wood of any consequence. Most of the land within ten miles of either side of the track was said to have been taken up or squatted on, but I saw few signs of cultivation or improvements of any kind. The supply of fuel for this district —in fact the fuel supply of the whole

Part 6 of 8 – 125 kb

North-West—is a very serious problem, and one that will press itself upon the attention of the people with great force during the coming winter. The wood in what is known as the fertile belt, between Winnipeg and the Rockies, will not do more than supply the settlers, supposing each half section to be occupied, with building material and firewood for one year, and then much of it would have to be hauled twenty or thirty miles. True, we have unlimited quantities in the Lake Superior country and in the Rockies, but these places are remote from the prairie districts, and wood can never be hauled for full such distances. There is room here for tens of thousands of people, the country will be nothing more than it is now, a boundless prairie, until it is taken possession of and brought under cultivation. There is, or should be, land here for every man who wants it, but how or where he can get it is another matter. I refer him to the Tory writers for information on that point. I believe this district, which embraces what is known as the Qu' Appelle country, to be very desirable for agricultural purposes, but I do not think it will compare with the Pembina Mountain or Souris River districts of Manitoba, than which there is none better in the north-west. It has great advantages—and also has some disadvantages, such as the scarcity of wood, want of good water, &c., but fortunately these are not insuperable—and unquestionably is destined to be one of the most prosperous portions of the great north-west.

WESTERN PERSONALS.

Wm. Inman, jr., a former Almonte boy, is clerking in Caldwell's drug store, and is so well pleased with the prospects ahead of him that he has recently taken to himself a wife—one of Winnipeg's fairest daughters.

R. Driscoll, a son of Mr. Richard Driscoll, a former municipal politician of some renown, occupies a responsible position in the wholesale house of Whitla & Co. He is doing his part to maintain the excellent reputation of Almonte abroad.

Walker & May, of Perth, have a job printing office at 322 Main St., and although they are now only fairly started they are doing a good trade. As they are first class printers, steady and reliable, they are bound to go to the front in their line.

Dawson Elliott is a son of the Pakenham auctioneer. He came with Mr. Whitla as head clerk, and is now a partner with that gentleman in the wholesale dry goods trade. They are one of the leading firms in the city. D. E. is a sharp, intelligent, well posted business man, and is rapidly laying up for himself a fortune where rust and moth doth corrupt. And that is about what the majority are striving for.

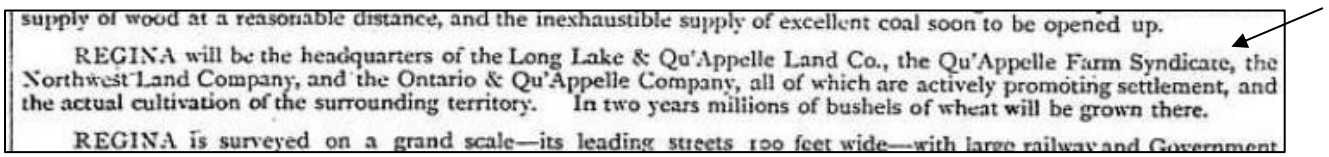
George Reilly, son of your aldermanic-looking councillor, was probably the sickest youth for a week or two that ever struck Winnipeg. Fortunately his wealth, after landing here, was insufficient to buy a ticket back to Perth or Almonte, or he would at once and forever have shaken the dust (or scraped the mud) of Winnipeg off his feet. But George has good stuff in him, and so he went to work slinging four bushel bags of oats for Bawlf at $2 50 per day. In a few weeks he got promoted to the Rossin House bar, with $45 per month and his board. By saving and investing judiciously George in three months became comparatively wealthy (worth over $300), and then nothing could induce him to go back. He is now in love with Winnipeg and Winnipegeresses; and believing that a fortune may be picked up here, he has set to work to find one.

W. T.

Part 7 of 7 – 112 kb

Part 8 of 8 – 111 kb

1882 – Oct. 27 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 8 – Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate headquartered in Regina (not same as Bell Farm).



supply of wood at a reasonable distance, and the inexhaustible supply of excellent coal soon to be opened up.

REGINA will be the headquarters of the Long Lake & Qu'Appelle Land Co., the Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate, the Northwest Land Company, and the Ontario & Qu'Appelle Company, all of which are actively promoting settlement, and the actual cultivation of the surrounding territory. In two years millions of bushels of wheat will be grown there.

REGINA is surveyed on a grand scale—its leading streets 100 feet wide—with large railway and Government

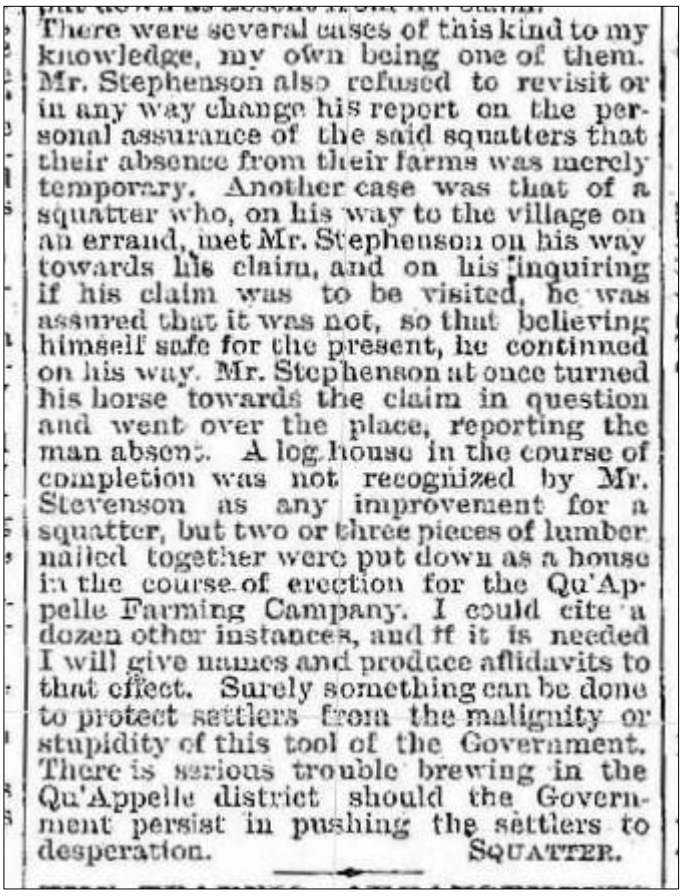
1882 – October – Round stone Bell Barn construction completed – Guy May letter, Dec. 25, 1882

1882 – Nov. 6 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Squatters at Bell Farm – Stephenson mediator

How Rufus Stephenson Earns His Salary—The Settlers Indignant and Desperate—A Protest Against the Spoiler.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR.—As you have on one other occasion been the champion of our rights, and as a subscriber to your valuable paper, I venture to hope that you will accord me a small space to record another great injustice which we, the poor squatters on the Qu' Appelle farm, have been subjected to. It was some time ago announced in the city papers that the Dominion Government had at last arrived at a solution of the question, and we have until a short time ago believed, that we were to be fully recognized; but some weeks ago another agent, purporting to be from the government Mr. Rufus Stephenson by name, arrived from the capital to subject our claim to a closer scrutiny than we have heretofore gone through. Mr. Stephenson at once on his arrival took up his abode at Major Bell's camp, and from that very comfortable lodging, proceeded to make his report, which, I believe, was to have contained a statement of the improvements made, not only by the squatters, but by the Bell Farming Co. Now for the wrongs that we wish to complain of. Without any notification, Mr. Stephenson would drive into a squatter's claim at any hour of the day that suited his pleasure, and if the poor, unfortunate squatter happened to be off to the bush to get a load of wood, or a half a mile away on an errand, he was at once put down as absent from his claim.

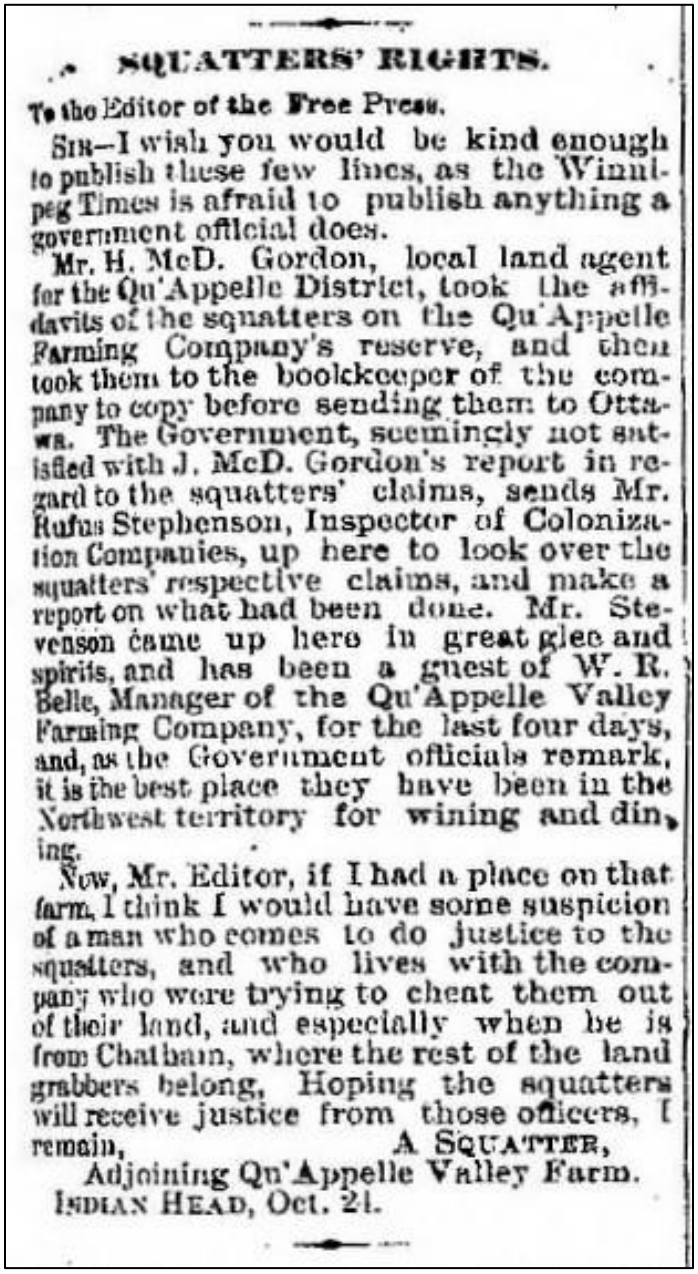


There were several cases of this kind to my knowledge, my own being one of them. Mr. Stephenson also refused to revisit or in any way change his report on the personal assurance of the said squatters that their absence from their farms was merely temporary. Another case was that of a squatter who, on his way to the village on an errand, met Mr. Stephenson on his way towards his claim, and on his inquiring if his claim was to be visited, he was assured that it was not, so that believing himself safe for the present, he continued on his way. Mr. Stephenson at once turned his horse towards the claim in question and went over the place, reporting the man absent. A log house in the course of completion was not recognized by Mr. Stevenson as any improvement for a squatter, but two or three pieces of lumber nailed together were put down as a house in the course of erection for the Qu'Appelle Farming Campany. I could cite a dozen other instances, and if it is needed I will give names and produce affidavits to that effect. Surely something can be done to protect settlers from the malignity or stupidity of this tool of the Government. There is serious trouble brewing in the Qu'Appelle district should the Government persist in pushing the settlers to desperation.

SQUATTER.

142 kb 127 kb

1882 – Nov. 9 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Letter re: Squatters' Rights



SQUATTERS' RIGHTS.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR—I wish you would be kind enough to publish these few lines, as the Winnipeg Times is afraid to publish anything a government official does.

Mr. H. McD. Gordon, local land agent for the Qu'Appelle District, took the affidavits of the squatters on the Qu'Appelle Farming Company's reserve, and then took them to the bookkeeper of the company to copy before sending them to Ottawa. The Government, seemingly not satisfied with J. McD. Gordon's report in regard to the squatters' claims, sends Mr. Rufus Stephenson, Inspector of Colonization Companies, up here to look over the squatters' respective claims, and make a report on what had been done. Mr. Stevenson came up here in great glee and spirits, and has been a guest of W. R. Belle, Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, for the last four days, and, as the Government officials remark, it is the best place they have been in the Northwest territory for wining and dining.

Now, Mr. Editor, if I had a place on that farm, I think I would have some suspicion of a man who comes to do justice to the squatters, and who lives with the company who were trying to cheat them out of their land, and especially when he is from Chatham, where the rest of the land grabbers belong. Hoping the squatters will receive justice from those officers, I remain,

A SQUATTER,
Adjoining Qu'Appelle Valley Farm.
INDIAN HEAD, Oct. 24.

1882 – Nov. 14 – *Man. Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate's Winnipeg office (not same as Bell Farm)

> "The Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate, the North-West Qu'Appelle and Long Lake Syndicate and the North-West Steam Plow Company have leased the entire ground floor of the handsome iron front, No. 247 Main St., just south of Wesley Hall, and are fitting it up in superb style for offices for their exclusive use."

1882 – Nov. 17 – *Van Wert Weekly Bulletin,* Ohio, p. 3 – Report on the Bell Farm establishment – travels across North America.

> "**FACTS AND FIGURES** – It is claimed that the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company of Manitoba owns and operates the largest farm in one block in the world. It is ten miles square, and after deducting the Hudson Bay Company's sections and the school sections, comprises 56,000 acres. The company is bonded to break 4,000 acres a year for five consecutive years, each year

placing within their tract fifty tenant families, and spending in operation and improving during the five years $600,000."

[Note: same article published in the following newspapers:

- *Iola Register*, Kansas, p. 3 – 17 Nov. 1882
- *Iowa Postal Card*, Fayette, Iowa, p. 3 –21 Nov. 1885
- *Marshall Daily Chronicle*, Michigan, p. 6 – 15 Dec. 1882]

1882 – Nov. 20 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell at Winnipeg's Grand Union Hotel

"**PERSONAL –** Major Bell of the great Qu'Appelle farm, arrived from the west yesterday, and is at the Grand Union."

1882 – Nov. 20 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 8 – Major Bell in Winnipeg

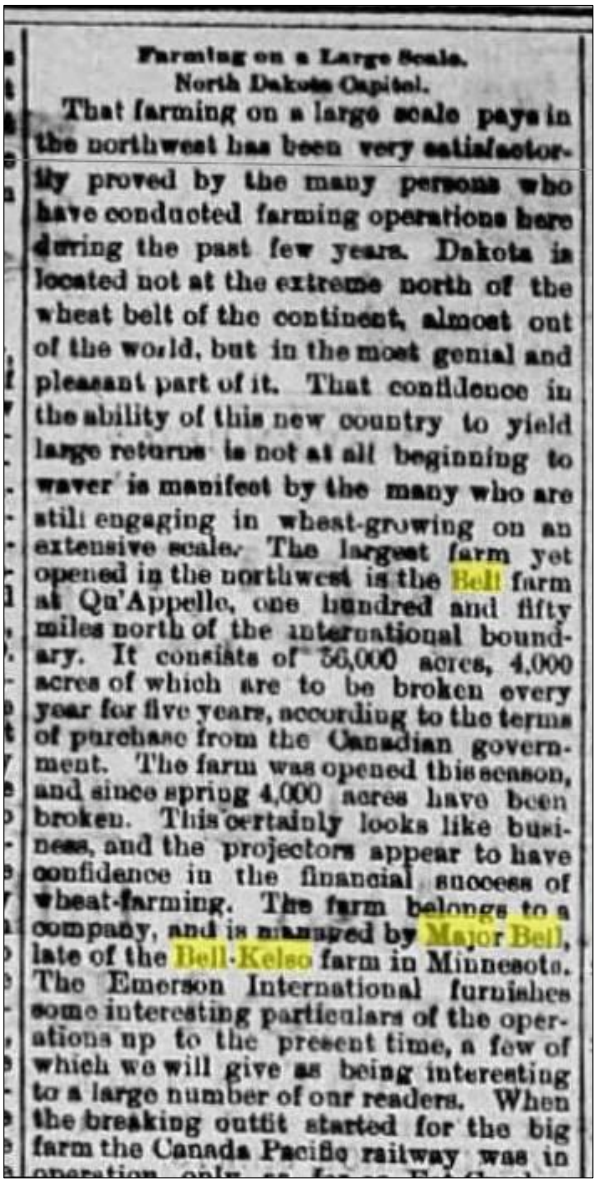
"**PERSONAL** . . . . . Major Bell of the Qu'Appelle farm, arrived from the West yesterday."

1882 – Nov. 22 – *Winnipeg Free Press* , p. 8 – Steam Plow for Bell Farm (typo error)

"A steam plow for the Qu'Appelle Farming Company, manufactured by Haggart & Co., of Brampton, Ont., arrived in the city yesterday. It was greatly admired as it was being driven up Main Street, drawn by four horses. It will not be sent to its destination before spring."

(FRANK: the reference to the "Qu'Appelle Farming Company" was an editorial error, and should have read "Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate". This was corrected in the Nov. 23 issue of the *Free Press*.)

1882 – Nov. 27 – *Press on Dakotaian,* Yankton, Dakota Territory, p. 2 - Bell Farm report and earliest-known telephone reference – a mere 8 years after the telephone was invented in 1874 by Alexander Graham Bell at Brantford, Ontario.

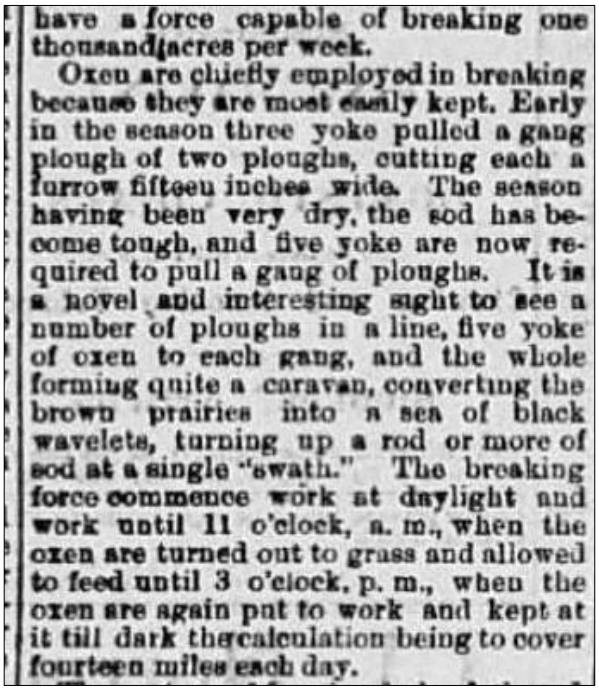


Farming on a Large Scale.
North Dakota Capitol.

That farming on a large scale pays in the northwest has been very satisfactorily proved by the many persons who have conducted farming operations here during the past few years. Dakota is located not at the extreme north of the wheat belt of the continent, almost out of the world, but in the most genial and pleasant part of it. That confidence in the ability of this new country to yield large returns is not at all beginning to waver is manifest by the many who are still engaging in wheat-growing on an extensive scale. The largest farm yet opened in the northwest is the Bell farm at Qu'Appelle, one hundred and fifty miles north of the international boundary. It consists of 56,000 acres, 4,000 acres of which are to be broken every year for five years, according to the terms of purchase from the Canadian government. The farm was opened this season, and since spring 4,000 acres have been broken. This certainly looks like business, and the projectors appear to have confidence in the financial success of wheat-farming. The farm belongs to a company, and is managed by Major Bell, late of the Bell-Kelso farm in Minnesota. The Emerson International furnishes some interesting particulars of the operations up to the present time, a few of which we will give as being interesting to a large number of our readers. When the breaking outfit started for the big farm the Canada Pacific railway was in operation only as far as Fat Creek, a point 900 miles east of its destination. The outfit, consisting of 120 yoke of oxen, 55 mules and 16 teams of horses, attached to gang plows and wagons, and forming a train three miles in length, left Flat Creek in May. After encountering many obstacles and enduring many hardships in the way of swimming swollen streams and floundering through almost impassable sloughs, the caravan finally reached the farm and commenced breaking about the 15th of June. Once broken the land is not backset, but merely harrowed and pulverized. The sight of the vast stretches of rich, mellow loam turned up to the pulverizing rays of the sun would make the eyes of the eastern farmers bulge out with amazement. The simple statement "four thousand acres," gives little idea of the extent of the ploughed fields, but when one imagines a field two miles wide by three and one-half long, then some idea is obtained of the size of the fields on the Bell farm. Take another comparison. Were the furrows of these 4,000 acres stretched out in one continuous furrow it would reach a distance of 36,000 miles, or encircle the earth nearly and and a half times. Or were the land plowed in a stretch twenty feet wide it would reach from Winnipeg to Montreal, via St. Paul and Chicago, a distance of 1,800 miles. The company proposes to break 7,000 acres next summer and will

Part 1 (133 kb)

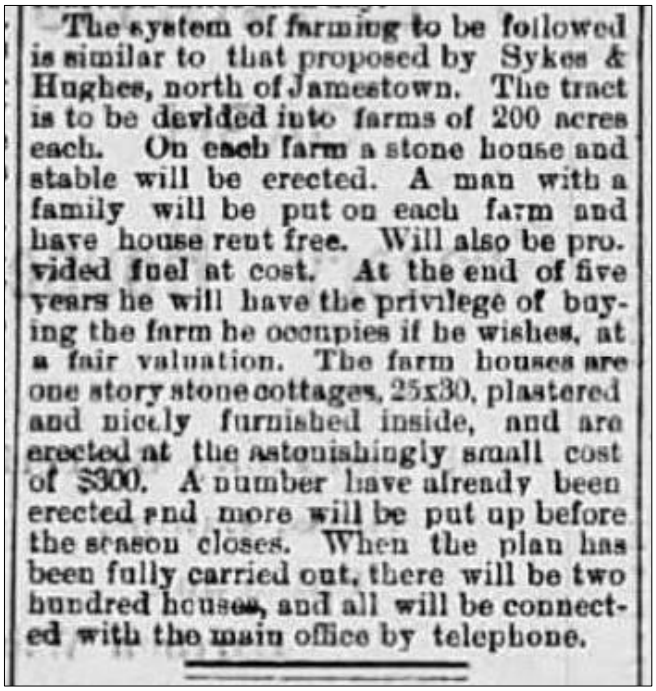
Part 2 (128 kb)



have a force capable of breaking one thousand acres per week.

Oxen are chiefly employed in breaking because they are most easily kept. Early in the season three yoke pulled a gang plough of two ploughs, cutting each a furrow fifteen inches wide. The season having been very dry, the sod has become tough, and five yoke are now required to pull a gang of ploughs. It is a novel and interesting sight to see a number of ploughs in a line, five yoke of oxen to each gang, and the whole forming quite a caravan, converting the brown prairies into a sea of black wavelets, turning up a rod or more of sod at a single "swath." The breaking force commence work at daylight and work until 11 o'clock, a. m., when the oxen are turned out to grass and allowed to feed until 3 o'clock, p. m., when the oxen are again put to work and kept at it till dark the calculation being to cover fourteen miles each day.

Part 3 (108 kb)



The system of farming to be followed is similar to that proposed by Sykes & Hughes, north of Jamestown. The tract is to be devided into farms of 200 acres each. On each farm a stone house and stable will be erected. A man with a family will be put on each farm and have house rent free. Will also be provided fuel at cost. At the end of five years he will have the privilege of buying the farm he occupies if he wishes, at a fair valuation. The farm houses are one story stone cottages, 25x30, plastered and nicely furnished inside, and are erected at the astonishingly small cost of $300. A number have already been erected and more will be put up before the season closes. When the plan has been fully carried out, there will be two hundred houses, and all will be connected with the main office by telephone.

Part 4 (102 kb)

1882 – Dec. 2 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Tour by *Free Press* reporter to west includes the Bell Farm

> "**CITY AND PROVINCE – OUT WEST -** . . . . the freighting trade, just now, for those northwestern points converge at this station on the C.P.R. [Note alternate names: Capell / Troy / South Qu'Appelle / and Qu'Appelle]. It [Troy] is also the centre of operations for the Qu'Appelle Farm Syndicate. Indian Head, the first station east of Capell, is the headquarters of the Bell Farm Company. The next place of importance reached is Regina, ..."

1882 – Dec. 4 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Bell in Winnipeg from Montreal trip

> "**PERSONAL** – Major Bell, of the mammoth farm at Qu'Appelle, has returned from a visit to Montreal."

1882 – Dec. 14 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – article on Bell Farm Squatters

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1882.

MUST THE QU'APPELLE SQUATTERS GO?

We have had occasion, more than once, to refer to the action of the Government with regard to the squatters on the Qu'Appelle Farm Company's land. As foreshadowed in a recent article in the Times, it seems now to have been decided to evict them wholesale. The praise bestowed on Mr. Stephenson in advance, the insistance on his incorruptibility and insusceptibility to influences other than the purest, the prominence given to the statement of the speculative character of the settlement, and various other features in our contemporary's method of dealing with the question, all point to the conclusion that, so far as the Government power extends, it will be used against the interests of the squatters and in favor of the band of speculators who compose the company.

Much stress is laid on the fact that, presumably, some of the squatters are speculators, or the agents of speculators, as a justification of the proposed course of the Government. Even if the statement were true, we confess ourselves incapable of understanding why one speculator is entitled to more consideration than another, or why Ontario speculators, who want to grab three or four of the best townships in the North-West, to the manifest detriment of not only the surrounding districts, but of the whole country, should be more favorably dealt with than the Winnipeg speculator who makes a clutch at a prospective town site.

Part 1 of 4

The Times, in trying to impress on one of its numerous correspondents, the supreme beneficence of the Dominion land laws says: "If a cast iron oath were administered to the settler on his going upon land, to the effect that his entry was made for his exclusive use and benefit and for actual settlement and cultivation, speculative squatting, the curse of the North-West, would not be so generally pursued." If our esteemed contemporary will only take the trouble to hunt up its copy of the Dominion Lands Act, and turn to the form of affidavit prescribed to be taken in support of a claim for homestead right, it will be found to contain the following clause: "That the application is made for my exclusive use and benefit, with intention to reside on and cultivate the said land." This may not be "cast iron" in the ordinary acceptation of the word, but it comes pretty near to filling the bill required by the Times. What need of all this fuss, then, about speculative squatting on the Qu'Appelle Farm? If there are speculative squatters, let them be allowed to apply for entry as the law directs. If they take the prescribed oath, and Mr. Stephenson and the Times have the positive information as to the rate per month at which they have been hired by Winnipeg speculators to make the Company "bleed," it will be a very easy matter for the Company to evict them from their buildings, and it will then be accompanied by no element of hardship, as the Government, on proof of the facts, will be in a position to give them a free home for some years at Stony Mountain in lieu of a free homestead. The positive information obtained by Mr. Stephenson

Part 2 of 4

formation obtained by Mr. Stephenson during his month's stay at the farm headquarters will prove invaluable in such an event, enabling him in some slight degree to repay the hospitalities extended to him.

In view of the present attitude of the Government it now devolves on the settlers, having exhausted argument and entreaty, to see if there is not another and more effective way of bringing the Government and the company to their senses. As a preliminary step in this undertaking one would suggest that they enquire of the Government where they obtained the power to grant the even numbered sections in the Bell Farm to the company. The powers of the Government are of course merely such as are conferred by Act of Parliament. They are as much bound as any other individual or corporation by the terms of the Dominion Lands Act. That Act provides that all even numbered sections within certain limits shall be open to homestead entry, unless sold at public auction for specified reasons. The Government is bound by these provisions unless they can show a license to disregard them. This, though a well understood principle in all cases, is more clearly shown to apply here from the fact that the powers intended to be exercised by the Governor in Council are specially delegated by Section 125, sub-section "b" of the Act. That clause empowers the Government "to preserve from general sale or settlement Dominion lands to such extent as may be required to aid in the construction of railways in Manitoba or in the Territories owned by the Dominion, and to provide for the disposal of such lands notwithstanding anything contained in the said Act, in such

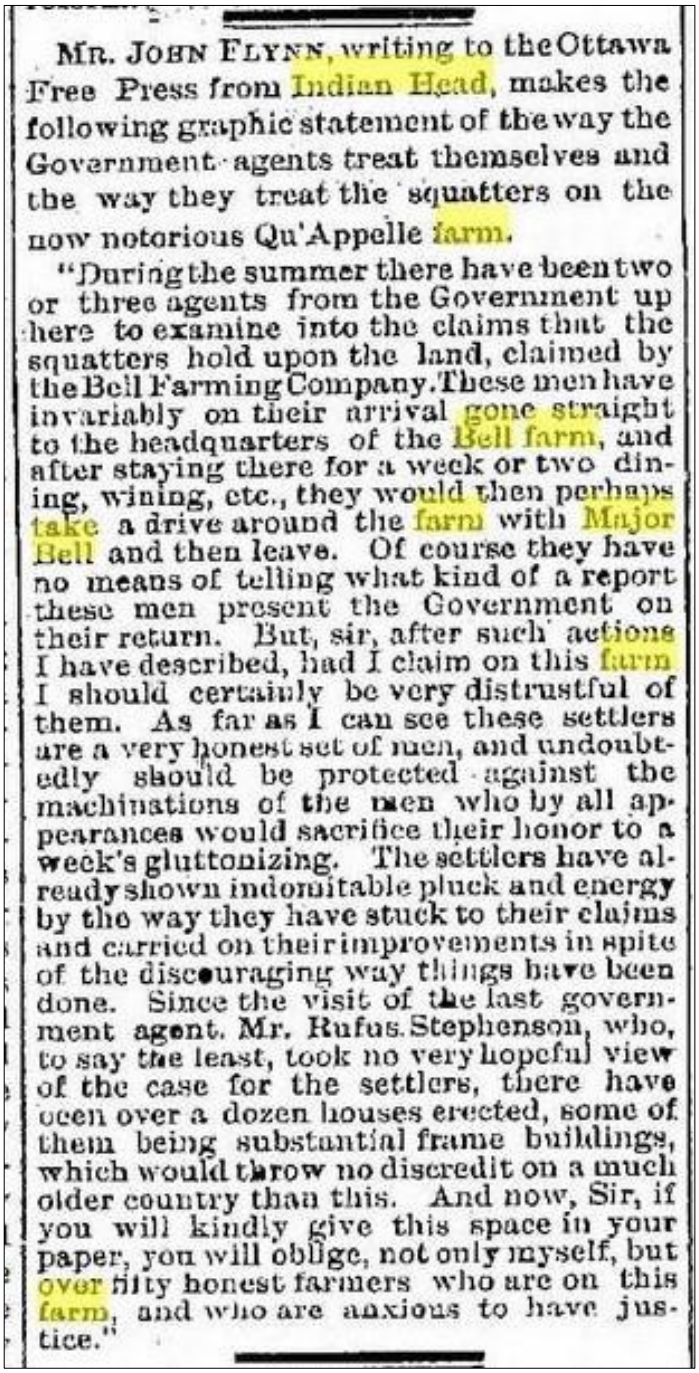
Part 3 of 4

manner and on such terms as may be deemed expedient." This is the only clause of the Lands Act under which the Government can possibly claim to justify their proceeding in withdrawing the sections granted to the Qu'Appelle Farm Company.

That they have the power under it to withdraw land, as they have done in this case, no one giving a moment's consideration to the subject will admit. The special power conferred by it to withdraw land from the ordinary operation of the Act, is for the specific purpose of encouraging railways, and for no other object or reason whatsoever. It can hardly be contended that the Bell Farm has been granted to aid in the construction of a railway, and, failing that, the grant is illegal. Should the Government attempt to evict the squatters, or much longer persist in refusing entry for their lands, it would be well for them to band together and obtain, in a court of justice, the rights denied them by a paternal Government.

Part 4 of 4

1882 – Dec. 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – John Flynn writes in support of Squatters



MR. JOHN FLYNN, writing to the Ottawa Free Press from Indian Head, makes the following graphic statement of the way the Government agents treat themselves and the way they treat the squatters on the now notorious Qu'Appelle farm.

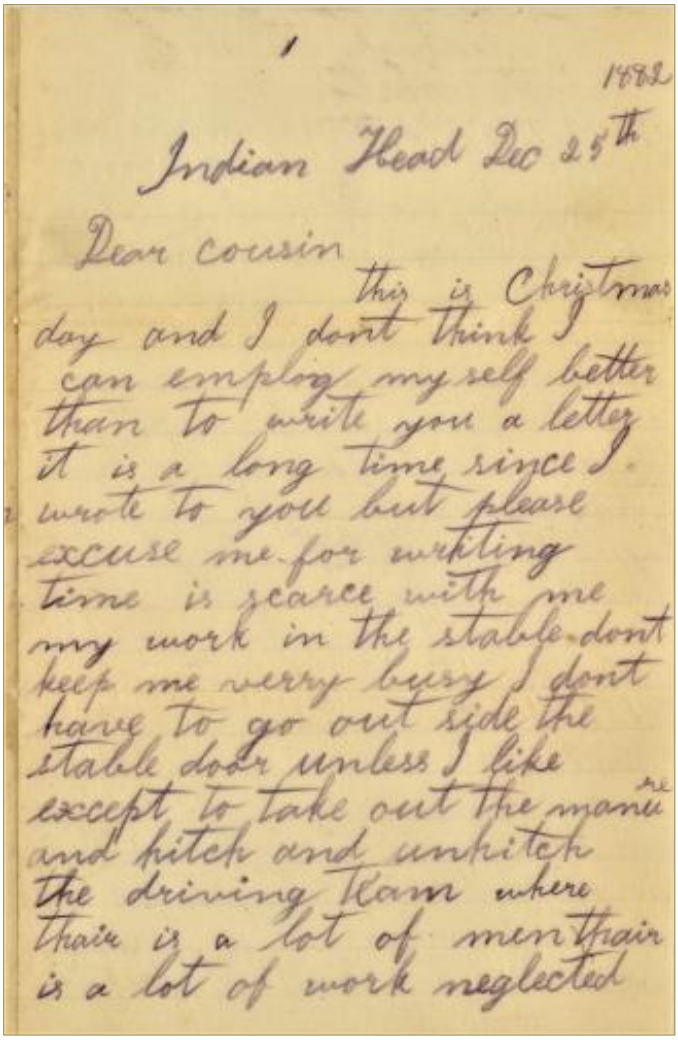
"During the summer there have been two or three agents from the Government up here to examine into the claims that the squatters hold upon the land, claimed by the Bell Farming Company. These men have invariably on their arrival gone straight to the headquarters of the Bell farm, and after staying there for a week or two dining, wining, etc., they would then perhaps take a drive around the farm with Major Bell and then leave. Of course they have no means of telling what kind of a report these men present the Government on their return. But, sir, after such actions I have described, had I claim on this farm I should certainly be very distrustful of them. As far as I can see these settlers are a very honest set of men, and undoubtedly should be protected against the machinations of the men who by all appearances would sacrifice their honor to a week's gluttonizing. The settlers have already shown indomitable pluck and energy by the way they have stuck to their claims and carried on their improvements in spite of the discouraging way things have been done. Since the visit of the last government agent, Mr. Rufus Stephenson, who, to say the least, took no very hopeful view of the case for the settlers, there have been over a dozen houses erected, some of them being substantial frame buildings, which would throw no discredit on a much older country than this. And now, Sir, if you will kindly give this space in your paper, you will oblige, not only myself, but over fifty honest farmers who are on this farm, and who are anxious to have justice."

160 kb

1882 – John Aird sent by Bank of Commerce [in Winnipeg] to help clean up the Bell Farm's "banking difficulties" – as reported in an obituary for Aird in: *The Globe and Mail*, Dec 1, 1938.

> ". . . **Authority on the West.** Gradually [Aird] climbed, and as he climbed he learned more and more about the [banking] business. He had been there only four years when he was given the unusual and, as it must have seemed to him, startling job of proceeding to the Bell farm at Indian Head, which was then the largest farm in the world, and which, in fact, was so big that if had got into banking difficulties , it must be assumed that city-bred thought he was he did a satisfactory job, for later on the 60,000 acres were to become worth $2,000,000 . . ."

1882 – Dec. 25 – Christmas at the Bell Farm – Guy May, who worked inside the Bell Barn, wrote this letter to his cousin in Ontario, and included a drawing of the Bell Barn floor plan. A transcript of the text includes the original spelling.

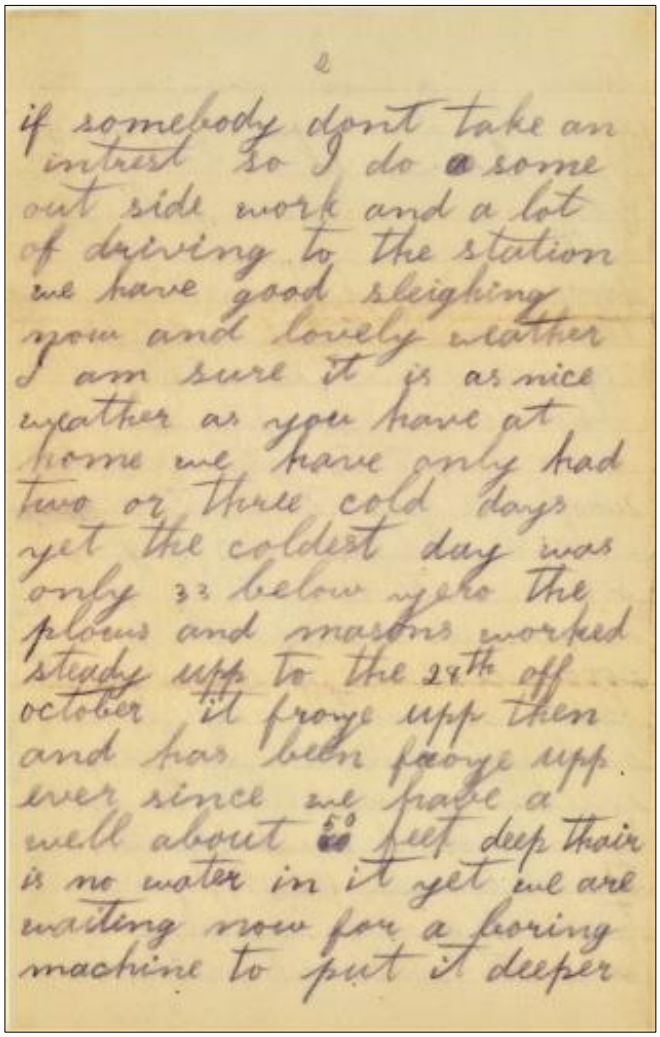


1

1882

Indian Head Dec 25th

Dear cousin this is Christmas day and I dont think I can employ myself better than to write you a letter it is a long time since I wrote to you but please excuse me for writing time is scarce with me my work in the stable dont keep me verry busy I dont have to go out side the stable door unless I like except to take out the manure and hitch and unhitch the driving team where thair is a lot of men thair is a lot of work neglected



2

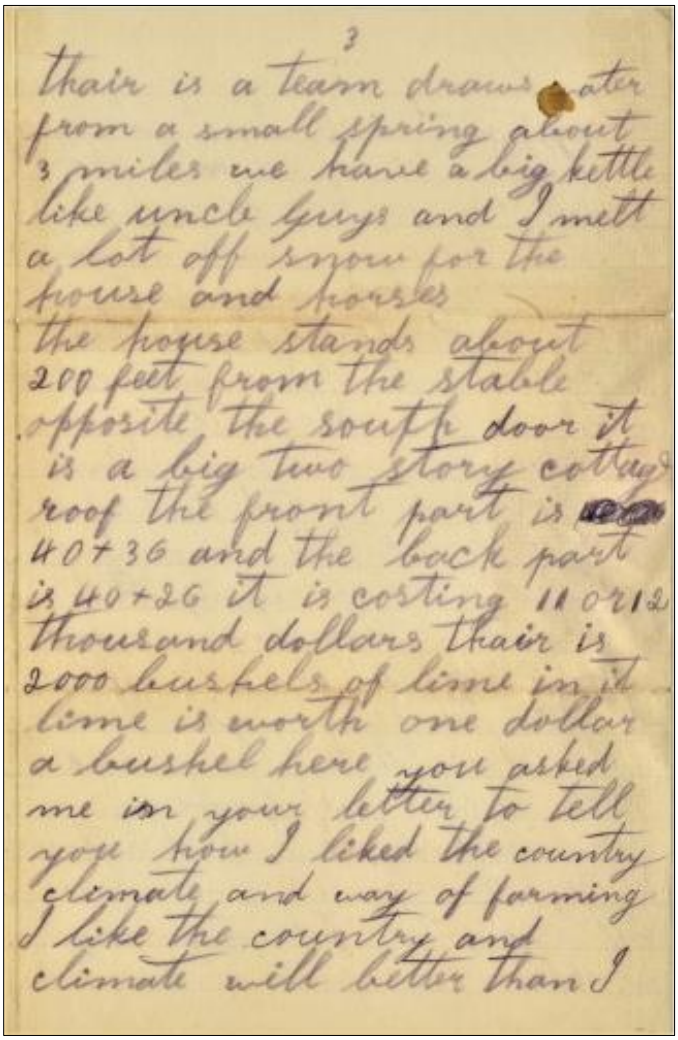
if somebody dont take an intrest so I do some out side work and a lot of driving to the station we have good sleighing now and lovely weather I am sure it is as nice weather as you have at home we have only had two or three cold days yet the coldest day was only 33 below zero the plows and masons worked steady upp to the 28th off october it froze upp then and has been froze upp ever since we have a well about 50 feet deep thair is no water in it yet we are waiting now for a boring machine to put it deeper

Page1 172 kb Page 2 167 kb

(PAGE 1) "Indian Head Dec 25th 1882

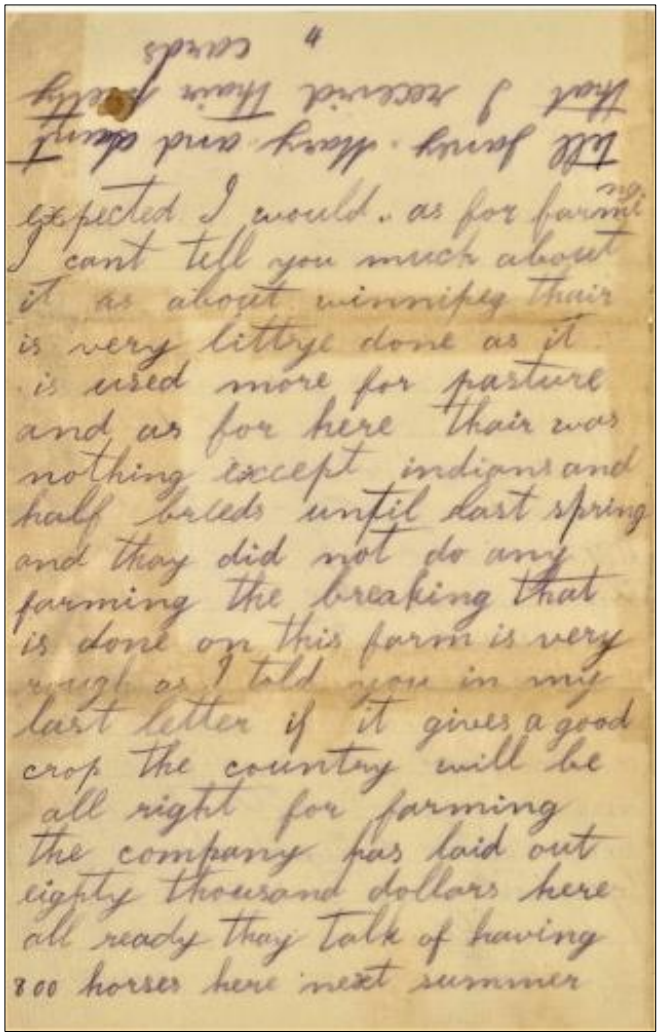
Dear Cousin: This is Christmas day and I don't think I can employ myself better than to write you a letter. It is a long time since I wrote to you but please excuse me for writing time is scarce with me. My work in the stable don't keep me very busy. I don't have to go out side the stable door unless I like except to take out the manure and hitch and unhitch the driving team where there is a lot of men. Thair is a lot of work neglected

(PAGE 2) if somebody don't take an interest, so I do some out side work and a lot of driving t the station. We have good sleighing now and lovely weather. I am sure it is as nice weather as you have at home. Only had two or three cold days yet the coldest day was only 33 below zero. The plows and masons worked steady up to the 28th off October. It froze upp then and has been froze upp ever since. We have a well about 50 feet deep. Thair is no water in it yet. We are waiting now for a boring machine to put it deeper.



3

thair is a team draws water from a small spring about 3 miles we have a big kettle like uncle guys and I melt a lot off snow for the house and horses the house stands about 200 feet from the stable opposite the south door it is a big two story cottage roof the front part is 40+36 and the back part is 40+26 it is costing 11 or 12 thousand dollars thair is 2000 bushels of lime in it lime is worth one dollar a bushel here you asked me in your letter to tell you how I liked the country climate and way of farming I like the country and climate well better than I



4

expected I would. as for farming I cant tell you much about it as about winnipeg thair is very littrye done as it is used more for pasture and as for here thair was nothing except indians and half breeds until last spring and thay did not do any farming the breaking that is done on this farm is very rough as I told you in my last letter if it gives a good crop the country will be all right for farming the company has laid out eighty thousand dollars here all ready thay talk of having 800 horses here next summer

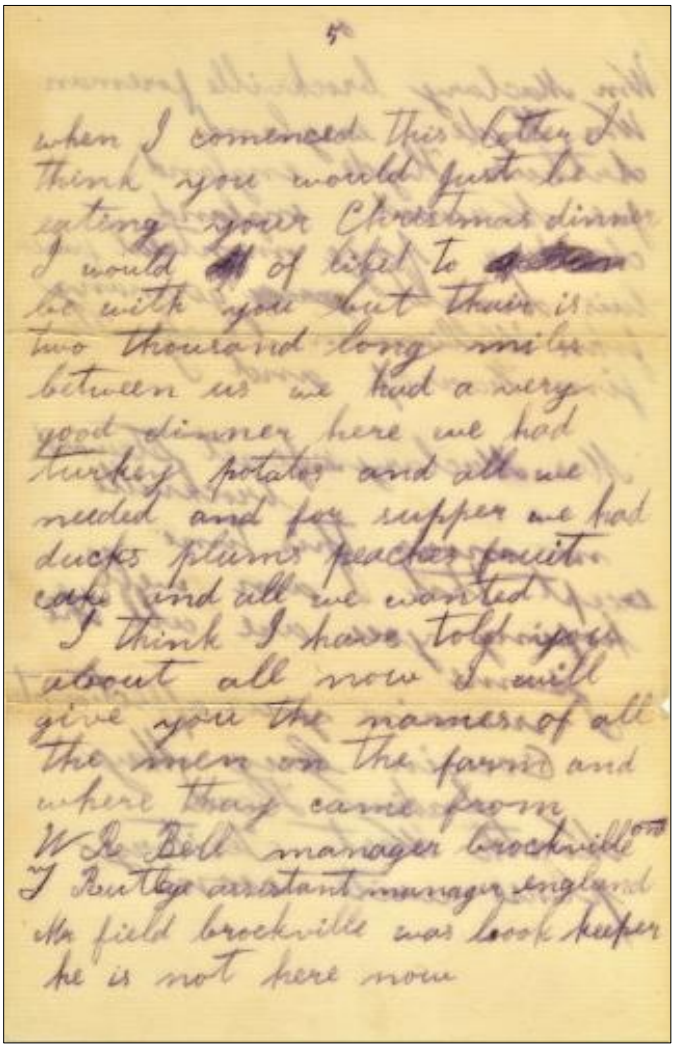
Page 3 181 kb Page 4 179 kb

(PAGE 3) Thair is a team draws water from a small spring about 3 miles. We have a big kettle like Uncle Guy's and I melt a lot off snow for the house and horses.

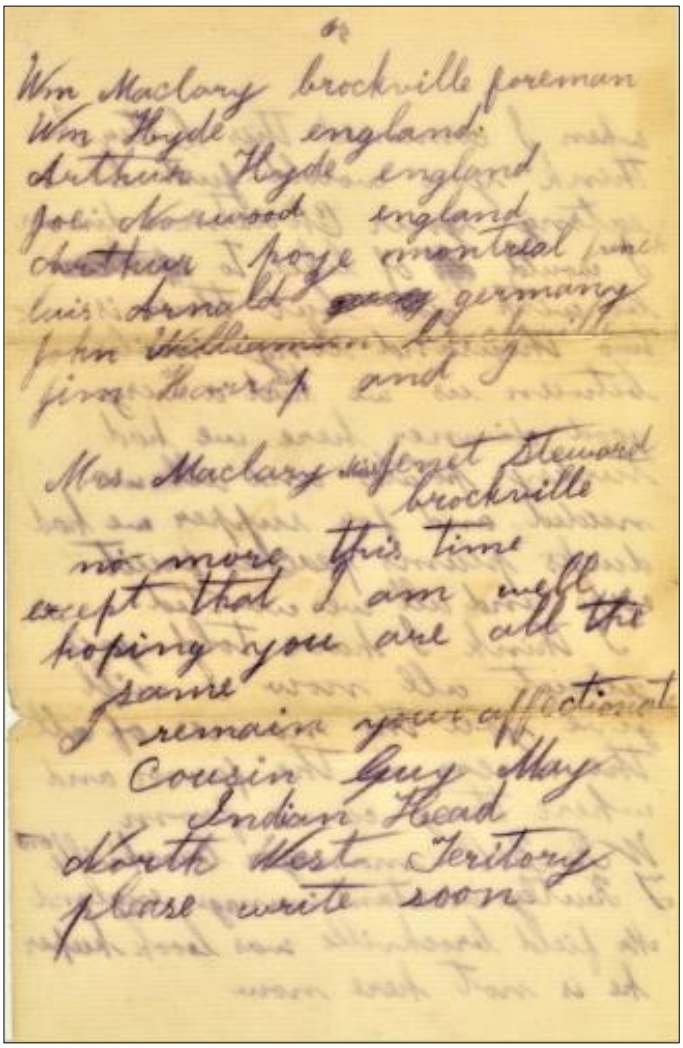
The house stands about 200 feet from the stable opposite the south door. It is a big two story cottage roof. The front part is 40 x 36 and the back part is 40 x 26. It is costing 11 or 12 thousand dollars. Thair is 2000 bushels of lime in it. Time is worth one dollar a bushel here. You asked me in your letter to tell you how I liked the country climate and way of farming. I like the country and climate well better than I

(PAGE 4) I expected I would. As for farming, I can't tell you much about it as about Winnipeg. Thair is very little done as it is used more for pasture and as for here, thair was nothing except Indians and half breeds until last spring and that they did not do any farming . The breaking that is done on this farm is very rough as I told you in my last letter. If it gives a good crop, the country will be all right for farming. The company has laid out eighty thousand dollars here all ready. They talk of having 800 horses here next summer.

(at top of page 4, this final note: "Tell Jeny, Mary and Aunt that I received their pretty cards."



when I comenced this letter I think you would just be eating your Christmas dinner I would of liked to be with you but thair is two thousand long miles between us we had a very good dinner here we had turkey potatoes and all we needed and for supper we had ducks plums peaches fruit cake and all we wanted I think I have told you about all now I will give you the names of all the men on the farm and where they came from W R Bell manager brockville T Rutlege assistant manager england Mr field brockville was book keeper he is not here now



Wm Maclary brockville foreman
Wm Hyde england
Arthur Hyde england
Joe Norwood england
Arthur Page montreal
Luis Arnold germany
John Williamson Brockvillr
Jim Harrop and I
Mrs. Maclary Miss Janet Steward brockville
no more this time except that I am well hoping you are all the same I remain your affectionat Cousin Guy May
Indian Head
North West Teritory
please write soon

Page 5 181 kb Page 6 184 kb

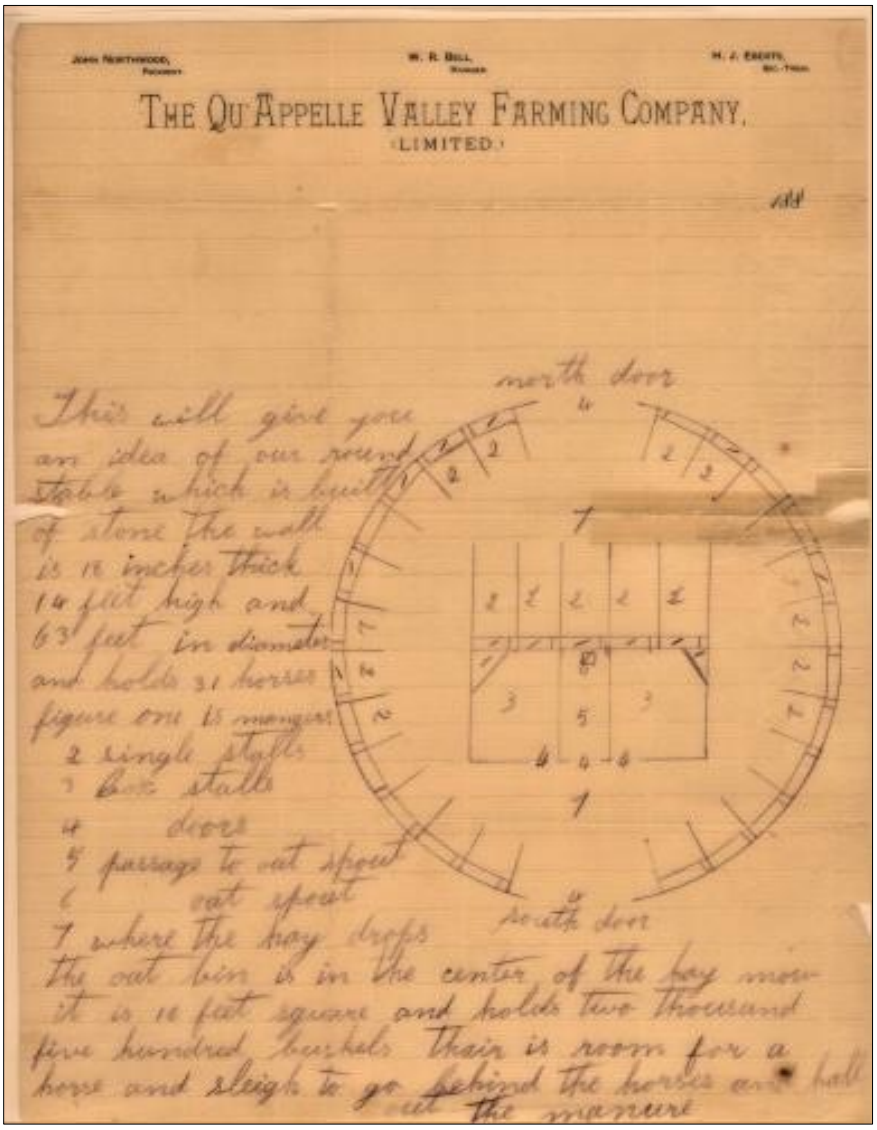
(PAGE 5) When I comenced this letterI think you would just be eating your Christmas dinner. I would of liked to be with you but thair is two thousand long miles between us. We had a very good dinner here. We had turkey, potatoies and all we needed and for supper we had ducks, plums, peaches, fruit cake and all we wanted.

I think I have told you about all now. I will giuve youy the names of all the men on the farem and where they came from.

W.R. Bell, manager, Brockville, Ont. ; T. Rutlege, assistant manager, England; Mr. Field, Brockville was book keeper, he is not here now;

(Page 6) Wm. Maclary, Brockville, foreman; Wm. Hyde, England; Arthur Hyde, England; Joe Norwood, England; Arthur Page, Montreal; Luis Arnold, Germany; Jogn Wiulliamson, Brockvillr; Jim Harrop and I; Mrs. Mcalary, Miss Janet Steward, Brockville.

No more this time except that I am well. Hoping you are all the same. I remain your affectiuonat Cousin Guy May, Indian Head, North West Teritory. Please write soon.


THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY FARMING COMPANY,
(LIMITED)

184

This will give you an idea of our round stable which is built of stone the wall is 18 inches thick 14 feet high and 63 feet in diameter and holds 31 horses figure one is mangers
2 single stalls
3 box stalls
4 doors
5 passage to oat spout
6 oat spout
7 where the hay drops
the oat bin is in the center of the hay mow it is 16 feet square and holds two thousand five hundred bushels thair is room for a horse and sleigh to go behind the horses and hall out the manure

north door

south door

Page 7 184 kb

(PAGE 7) This will give you an idea of our round stable which is built of stone. The wall is 18 inches thick, 14 feet high and 63 feet in diameter and holds 31 horses. Figure one is mangers

2 - single stables

3 - box stalls

4 – doors

5 – passage to oat spout

6 – oat spout

7 – where the hay drops

The oat bin is in the centre of the hay mow. It is 16 feet square and holds two thousand five hundred bushels. Thair is room for a horse and sleigh to go behind the horses and hall out the manure."

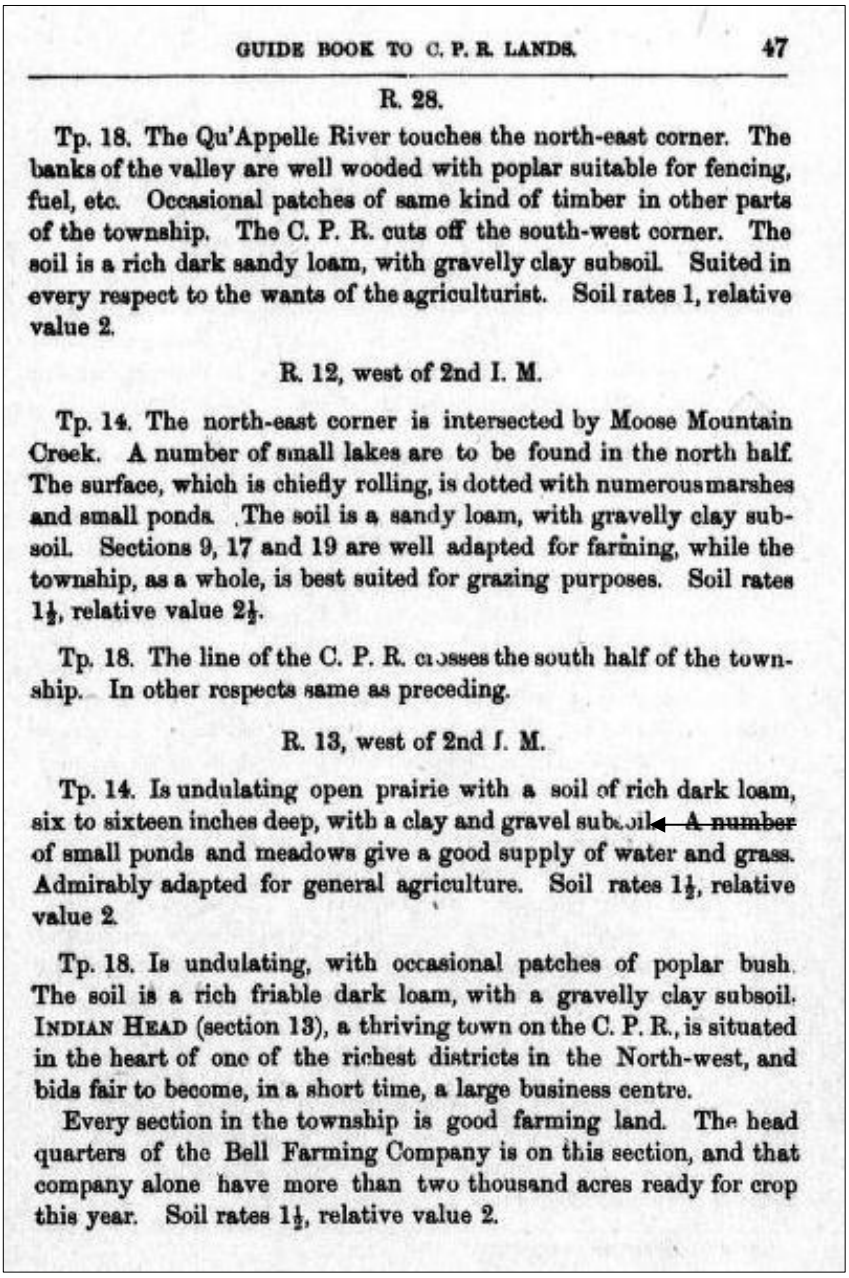
1882 – Dec. 29 – *Brandon Daily Mail*, p. 4 – Major & Mrs. Bell pass through Brandon on train going east. (No indication what the destination will be.)

> "Major Bell, manager of the 50,000 acre farm at Indian Head, known as the "Bell Farm", and owned by the Qu'Appelle Farming Co., was a passenger on the west bound express train yesterday, accompanied by his wife. The Major informed a MAIL representative that during the summer season the company broke up four thousand acres, and will break as many more next season, while that broken the past season will be cropped. The Bell farm is the largest and probably the finest in the world, comprising a splendid track of land lying between the C.P. Railway and the Qu'Appelle River. Substantial stone residences and stables have been erected and altogether about $100,000 was expended in improvements last season. In the hands of major Bell, who has had considerable experience in farming on a large scale in the Red River Valley, the farm will no doubt be made a financial success and will do much to advertise the capabilities of the soil and of our glorious Northwest. This famous farm is located about 100 miles west of Brandon."

1883

1883 – Farm building construction completed

1883 – *Guide Book to Canadian Pacific Railway Lands* – p. 47



GUIDE BOOK TO C. P. R. LANDS. 47

R. 28.

Tp. 18. The Qu'Appelle River touches the north-east corner. The banks of the valley are well wooded with poplar suitable for fencing, fuel, etc. Occasional patches of same kind of timber in other parts of the township. The C. P. R. cuts off the south-west corner. The soil is a rich dark sandy loam, with gravelly clay subsoil. Suited in every respect to the wants of the agriculturist. Soil rates 1, relative value 2.

R. 12, west of 2nd I. M.

Tp. 14. The north-east corner is intersected by Moose Mountain Creek. A number of small lakes are to be found in the north half. The surface, which is chiefly rolling, is dotted with numerous marshes and small ponds. The soil is a sandy loam, with gravelly clay subsoil. Sections 9, 17 and 19 are well adapted for farming, while the township, as a whole, is best suited for grazing purposes. Soil rates 1½, relative value 2½.

Tp. 18. The line of the C. P. R. crosses the south half of the township. In other respects same as preceding.

R. 13, west of 2nd I. M.

Tp. 14. Is undulating open prairie with a soil of rich dark loam, six to sixteen inches deep, with a clay and gravel subsoil. A number of small ponds and meadows give a good supply of water and grass. Admirably adapted for general agriculture. Soil rates 1½, relative value 2.

Tp. 18. Is undulating, with occasional patches of poplar bush. The soil is a rich friable dark loam, with a gravelly clay subsoil. INDIAN HEAD (section 13), a thriving town on the C. P. R., is situated in the heart of one of the richest districts in the North-west, and bids fair to become, in a short time, a large business centre.

Every section in the township is good farming land. The head quarters of the Bell Farming Company is on this section, and that company alone have more than two thousand acres ready for crop this year. Soil rates 1½, relative value 2.

90 kb

1883 - Dominion Lands Grants to the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company – check for details

(Source: Glenbow Archives: Series 4: M-6531-17: Legal Documents: 1887-1890)

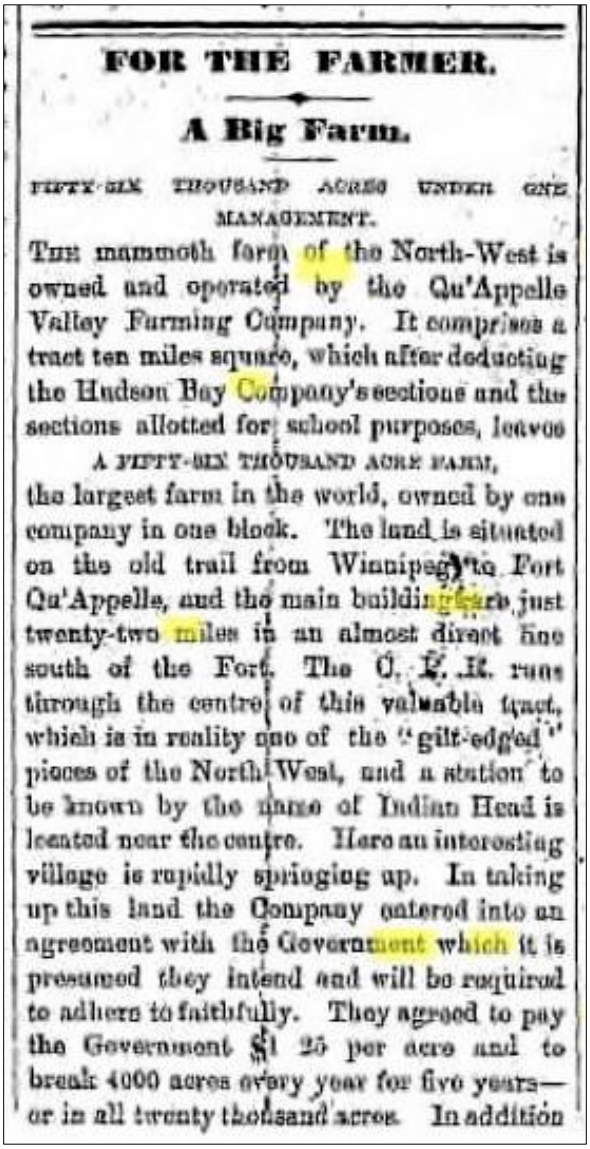
1883 – Jan. 10 – First Annual Meeting and Report of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company

1883 – Jan. 10 – Bell Farm head office moved from Chatham, Ont. to Winnipeg, Man.

"A notice dated 10th January, 1883, states that the chief place of business has been changed from Chatham, Ontario to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and also that the number of directors has been increased. This notice is quoted in full (attached)."

(Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

1883 – Jan. 25 – *The Shoalhaven Telegraph, Nowra, New South Wales*, p. 4 – report on the Bell Farm , based on the *Ontario Globe* – mention of telephone to come, roof construction details, bricks and lime kiln, etc. *(*Almost identical to the report published in: "*Farming in the North-West of Canada: Actual Results 1884*" – p. 31-35 – "The Bell Farm at Qu'Appelle")



FOR THE FARMER.

A Big Farm.

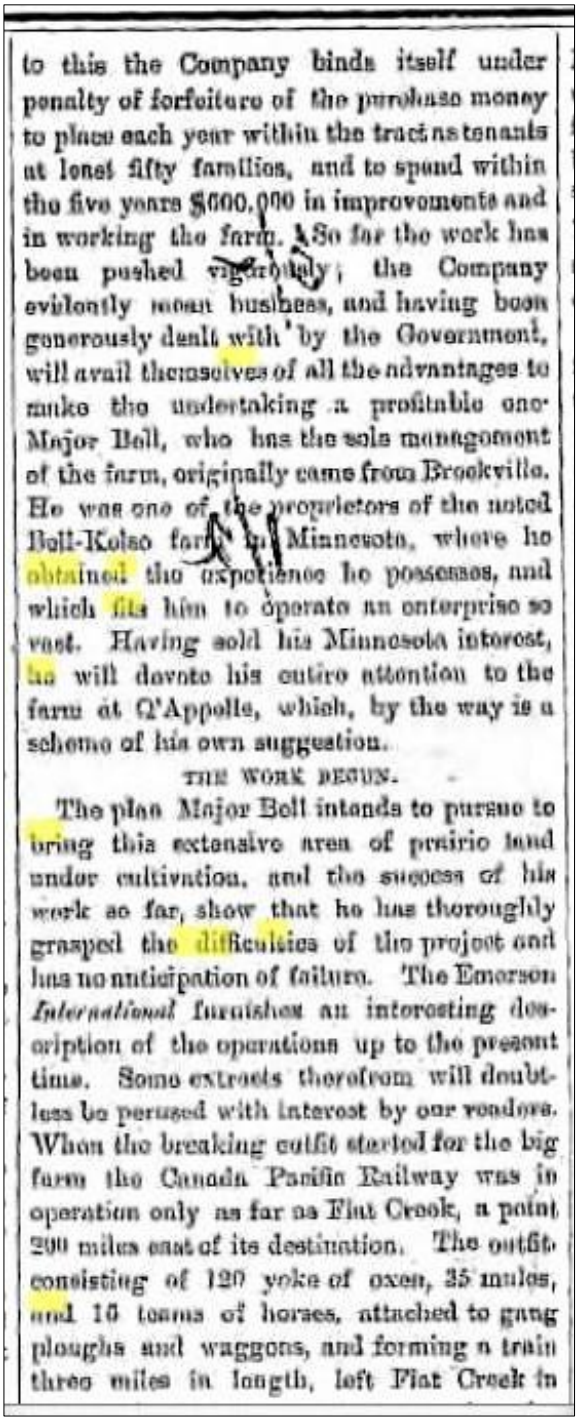
FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND ACRES UNDER ONE MANAGEMENT.

THE mammoth farm of the North-West is owned and operated by the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. It comprises a tract ten miles square, which after deducting the Hudson Bay Company's sections and the sections allotted for school purposes, leaves

A FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND ACRE FARM,

the largest farm in the world, owned by one company in one block. The land is situated on the old trail from Winnipeg to Fort Qu'Appelle, and the main buildings are just twenty-two miles in an almost direct line south of the Fort. The C. P. R. runs through the centre of this valuable tract, which is in reality one of the "gilt-edged" pieces of the North West, and a station to be known by the name of Indian Head is located near the centre. Here an interesting village is rapidly springing up. In taking up this land the Company entered into an agreement with the Government which it is presumed they intend and will be required to adhere to faithfully. They agreed to pay the Government $1 25 per acre and to break 4000 acres every year for five years—or in all twenty thousand acres. In addition

Part 1 106 kb



to this the Company binds itself under penalty of forfeiture of the purchase money to place each year within the tract as tenants at least fifty families, and to spend within the five years $600,000 in improvements and in working the farm. So far the work has been pushed vigorously; the Company evidently mean business, and having been generously dealt with by the Government, will avail themselves of all the advantages to make the undertaking a profitable one. Major Bell, who has the sole management of the farm, originally came from Brockville. He was one of the proprietors of the noted Bell-Kelso farm in Minnesota, where he obtained the experience he possesses, and which fits him to operate an enterprise so vast. Having sold his Minnesota interest, he will devote his entire attention to the farm at Q'Appelle, which, by the way is a scheme of his own suggestion.

THE WORK BEGUN.

The plan Major Bell intends to pursue to bring this extensive area of prairie land under cultivation, and the success of his work so far, show that he has thoroughly grasped the difficulties of the project and has no anticipation of failure. The Emerson *International* furnishes an interesting description of the operations up to the present time. Some extracts therefrom will doubtless be perused with interest by our readers. When the breaking outfit started for the big farm the Canada Pacific Railway was in operation only as far as Flat Creek, a point 200 miles east of its destination. The outfit consisting of 120 yoke of oxen, 35 mules, and 15 teams of horses, attached to gang ploughs and waggons, and forming a train three miles in length, left Flat Creek in

Part 2 124 kb

three miles in length, left Flat Creek in May, and, after encountering many obstacles and enduring many hardships in the way of fording and swimming swollen streams and floundering through almost impassible sloughs, the caravan finally reached the farm and commenced breaking about the 15th of June At the time of the reporter's visit three thousand acres were under plough and the breakers were on their fourth thousand acres, which was expected to be under plough before the close of the season.

THE SOIL

is a rich sandy loam, eighteen inches to two feet in depth, with clay subsoil, and is easily broken. Once broken it does not require "backsetting," as does the soil of the Red River Valley, but simply requires harrowing to be in shape for the reception of seed. The sight of the vast stretches of rich mellow loam turned up to the pulverising rays of the sun would make the eyes of the average Ontario farmer bulge out with amazement. The simple statement "four thousand acres" gives little idea of the extent of the ploughed fields, but when one imagines a field two miles wide by three and one half miles long, then some idea is obtained of the size of the fields on the Bell Farm, by which title the place is now generally known. The company proposes to break 7000 acres next summer, and will have a force capable of breaking

ONE THOUSAND ACRES PER WEEK.

Oxen are chiefly employed in breaking, because they are most easily kept. Early in the season three yoke pulled a gang plough of two ploughs cutting each a furrow fifteen inches wide. The season having been very dry, the sod has become tough, and five yoke are now required to pull a gang of two ploughs. It is a novel and

Part 3 137 kb

gang of two ploughs. It is a novel and interesting sight to see a number of the ploughs in line, five yoke of oxen to a plough, and the whole forming quite a caravan, converting the brown prairie into a sea of black wavelets, turning up a rod or more of sod at a "swath." The breaking force commence work at daylight and work till 11 o'clock a.m., when the oxen are turned out to grass and allowed to feed till 3 o'clock p.m., when the oxen are again put to work and kept at it till dark, the calculation being to cover

FOURTEEN MILES EACH DAY.

The oxen get no other feed except what they pick up on the prairie. Eighty yoke of oxen are employed in breaking at present, and in addition to these 35 mules and 34 horses are used in ploughing and other work. Next year only mules and horses will be employed, as a good supply of hay (400 tons) has been put up, and now that the railway is in operation oats can be obtained at a comparatively low rate until next season's crop can be harvested. Major

Part 4 104 kb

next season's crop can be harvested. Major Bell's plans are comprehensive, and everything is done systematically. Besides himself there is a general superintendent of the farm, Mr. T. Routledge, an Englishman, and a number of foremen. At present 100 men are employed in erecting buildings, breaking, etc. Handsome and substantial stone buildings are being erected. In the erection of his buildings Major Bell has struck an idea that can be adopted with profit by a great many settlers in the North-West. Scattered over the farm, always on the surface, are to be found a considerable number of hardheads, lime and sandstone. These stones supply the building material for the

NUMEROUS HOUSES AND STABLES

that are being erected on the farm, and "thus two birds are killed with one stone," so to speak—the farm is cleared of stones, and cheap building material is secured at the same time. The main buildings on the farm are located about a mile and a half north of the railway station. A large and substantial stable has been erected, and a handsome and substantial house is nearly completed. The stable is a model of strength and comfort. It is circular in shape and looks something like the round elevators one sees along the St. P., M., &

Part 5 107 kb

M. Railway, only it is not so high and is more substantial, the stone walls being two feet thick. It contains 30 stalls and two box stalls. The floor is paved with cobble stone. Overhead is a loft with capacity for 150 tons of hay. In the centre of the upper story is a bin for oats, with storage capacity of 4000 bushels. Major Bell has hit upon a

NOVEL AND ECONOMICAL PLAN

for roofing his buildings. He first sheets the rafters with common lumber and then paints the boards. Before the paint dries heavy *decking* is stretched over the boards and tacked down, and this is then painted and sanded, making a tight and at the same time cheap roof. All the building material, except lumber, is obtained on the farm. The company have their own lime kiln and have this year burned 1500 bushels. Next year they will commence the manufacture of brick. The

MAIN FARM RESIDENCE

is a substantial and handsome pile. The estimated cost of the building is $8000 though it could not be erected in any part of Manitoba for anything like that sum. The main portion of the building is 40 feet square, two full storeys, with a wing; also two storeys 24 x 50 feet in size. The upper portion of the wing furnishes sleeping accommodation for 20 farm hands, while below is the kitchen and dining-room for the men. In the main building one side is divided into a parlour and dining-room, and the other into offices for the general manager and superintendent. The second story is divided into bedrooms. Underneath the main building is a fine cellar, extending the full size of the building. The residence is situated about 100 yards south of the stable. At the rear of the house an acre of ground

Part 6 130 kb

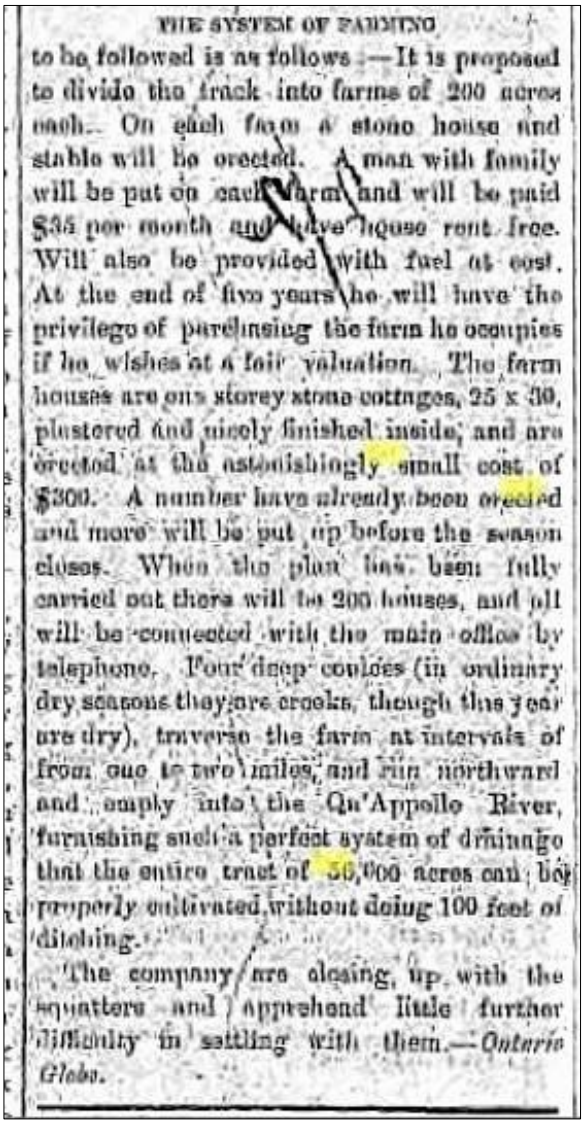
At the rear of the house an acre of ground has been ploughed for a garden, and Major Bell intends to have a garden that will astonish visitors to the farm, and show

WHAT NORTH-WEST SOIL CAN DO

Trees from the Lake of the Woods are to be used for the ornamentation of the road leading to the station. Near the barn is a blacksmith shop and at the rear of the house an ice-house—the latter to be filled the coming winter from two beautiful lakes located six miles south of the house. In addition to these, two large sheds for implements, located on each side of the barn and each 20 x 150 feet in size, are to be erected

THE SYSTEM OF FARMING

Part 7 83 kb



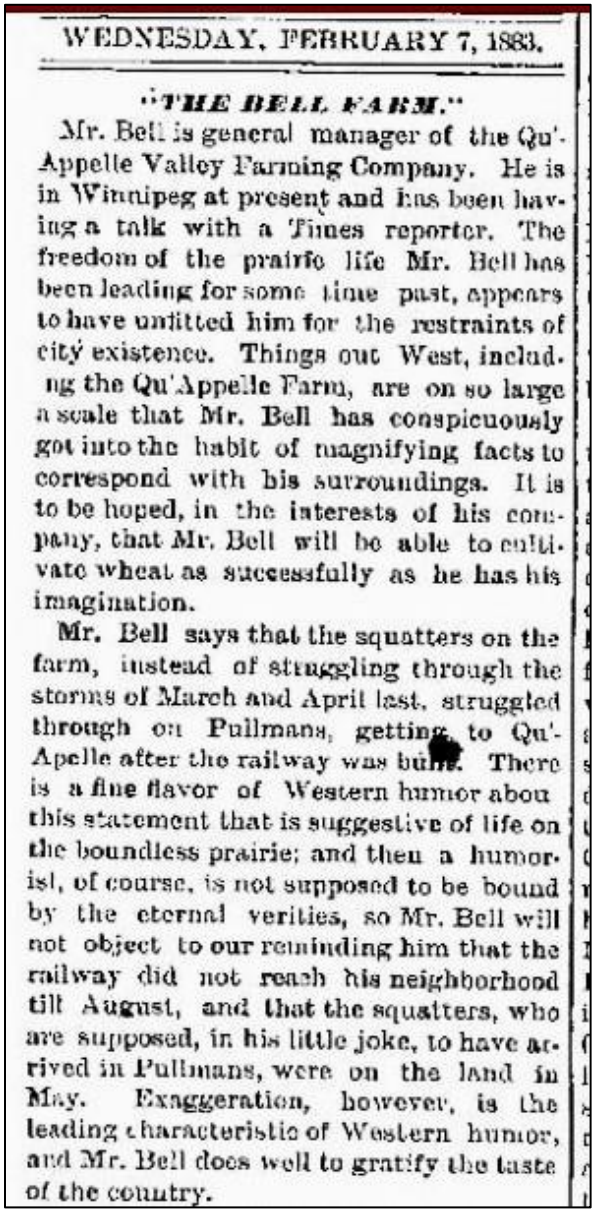
THE SYSTEM OF FARMING

to be followed is as follows:—It is proposed to divide the track into farms of 200 acres each. On each farm a stone house and stable will be erected. A man with family will be put on each farm and will be paid $35 per month and have house rent free. Will also be provided with fuel at cost. At the end of five years he will have the privilege of purchasing the farm he occupies if he wishes at a fair valuation. The farm houses are one storey stone cottages, 25 x 30, plastered and nicely finished inside, and are erected at the astonishingly small cost of $300. A number have already been erected and more will be put up before the season closes. When the plan has been fully carried out there will be 200 houses, and all will be connected with the main office by telephone. Four deep coulees (in ordinary dry seasons they are creeks, though this year are dry), traverse the farm at intervals of from one to two miles, and run northward and empty into the Qu'Appelle River, furnishing such a perfect system of drainage that the entire tract of 50,000 acres can be properly cultivated without doing 100 feet of ditching.

The company are closing up with the squatters and apprehend little further difficulty in settling with them.—*Ontario Globe.*

Part 8 113 kb

1883 – Feb. 7 – *Man. Daily Fere Press*, p. 4 – Report on the Bell Farm and Squatters



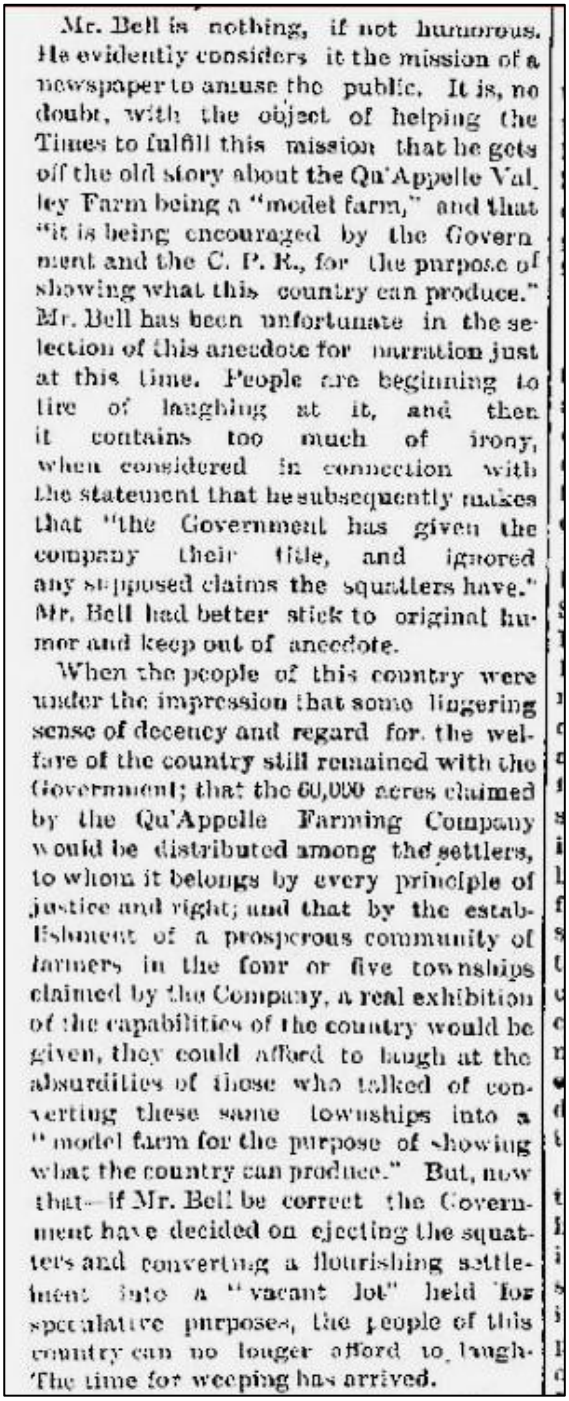
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1883.

"THE BELL FARM."

Mr. Bell is general manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. He is in Winnipeg at present and has been having a talk with a Times reporter. The freedom of the prairie life Mr. Bell has been leading for some time past, appears to have unfitted him for the restraints of city existence. Things out West, including the Qu'Appelle Farm, are on so large a scale that Mr. Bell has conspicuously got into the habit of magnifying facts to correspond with his surroundings. It is to be hoped, in the interests of his company, that Mr. Bell will be able to cultivate wheat as successfully as he has his imagination.

Mr. Bell says that the squatters on the farm, instead of struggling through the storms of March and April last, struggled through on Pullmans, getting to Qu'Appelle after the railway was built. There is a fine flavor of Western humor about this statement that is suggestive of life on the boundless prairie; and then a humorist, of course, is not supposed to be bound by the eternal verities, so Mr. Bell will not object to our reminding him that the railway did not reach his neighborhood till August, and that the squatters, who are supposed, in his little joke, to have arrived in Pullmans, were on the land in May. Exaggeration, however, is the leading characteristic of Western humor, and Mr. Bell does well to gratify the taste of the country.

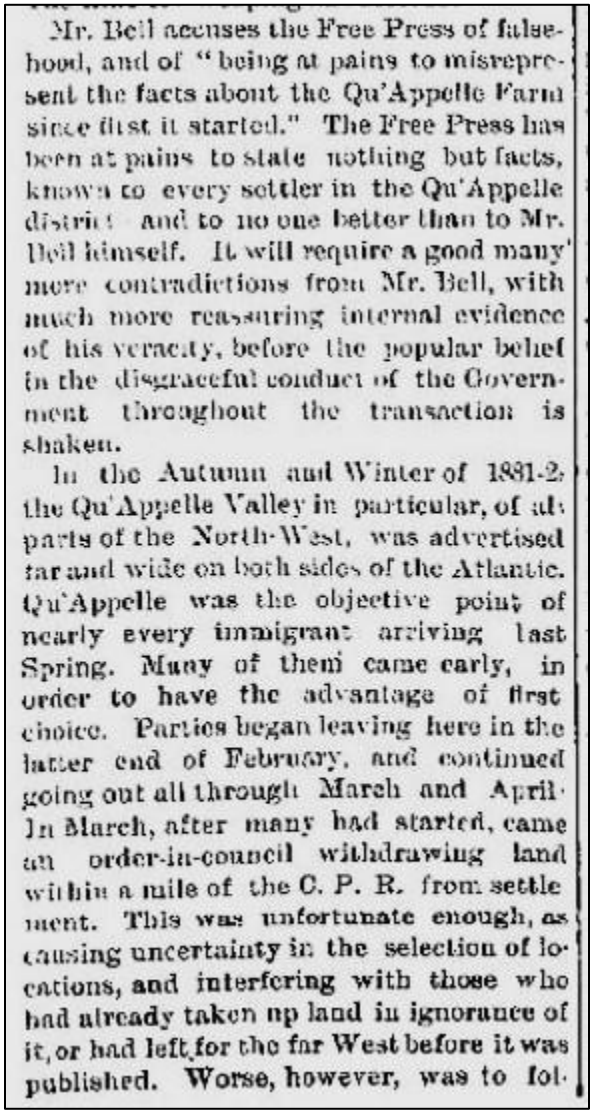
Part 1 of 6 116 kb



Mr. Bell is nothing, if not humorous. He evidently considers it the mission of a newspaper to amuse the public. It is, no doubt, with the object of helping the Times to fulfill this mission that he gets off the old story about the Qu'Appelle Valley Farm being a "model farm," and that "it is being encouraged by the Government and the C. P. R., for the purpose of showing what this country can produce." Mr. Bell has been unfortunate in the selection of this anecdote for narration just at this time. People are beginning to tire of laughing at it, and then it contains too much of irony, when considered in connection with the statement that he subsequently makes that "the Government has given the company their title, and ignored any supposed claims the squatters have." Mr. Bell had better stick to original humor and keep out of anecdote.

When the people of this country were under the impression that some lingering sense of decency and regard for the welfare of the country still remained with the Government; that the 60,000 acres claimed by the Qu'Appelle Farming Company would be distributed among the settlers, to whom it belongs by every principle of justice and right; and that by the establishment of a prosperous community of farmers in the four or five townships claimed by the Company, a real exhibition of the capabilities of the country would be given, they could afford to laugh at the absurdities of those who talked of converting these same townships into a "model farm for the purpose of showing what the country can produce." But, now that—if Mr. Bell be correct the Government have decided on ejecting the squatters and converting a flourishing settlement into a "vacant lot" held for speculative purposes, the people of this country can no longer afford to laugh. The time for weeping has arrived.

Part 2 of 6 135 kb



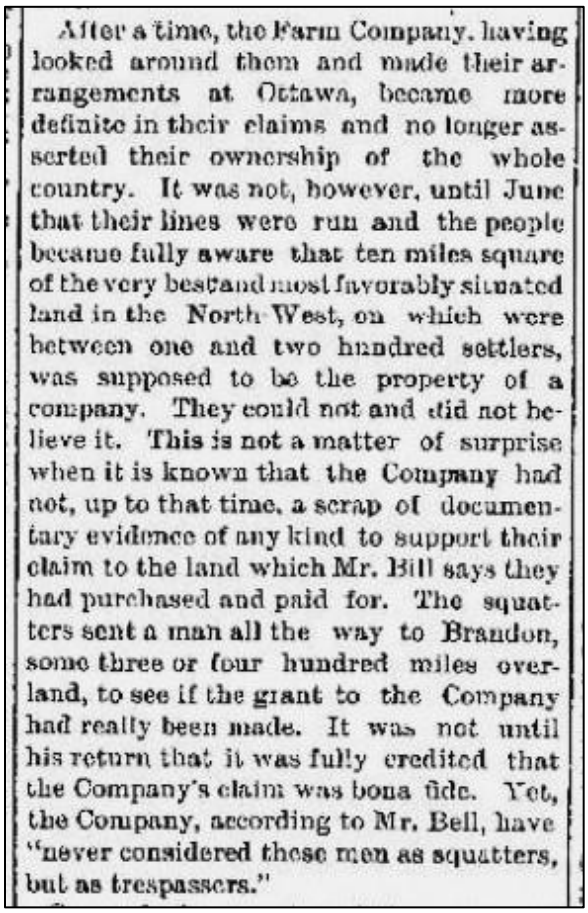
Mr. Bell accuses the Free Press of falsehood, and of "being at pains to misrepresent the facts about the Qu'Appelle Farm since first it started." The Free Press has been at pains to state nothing but facts, known to every settler in the Qu'Appelle district and to no one better than to Mr. Bell himself. It will require a good many more contradictions from Mr. Bell, with much more reassuring internal evidence of his veracity, before the popular belief in the disgraceful conduct of the Government throughout the transaction is shaken.

In the Autumn and Winter of 1881-2, the Qu'Appelle Valley in particular, of all parts of the North-West, was advertised far and wide on both sides of the Atlantic. Qu'Appelle was the objective point of nearly every immigrant arriving last Spring. Many of them came early, in order to have the advantage of first choice. Parties began leaving here in the latter end of February, and continued going out all through March and April. In March, after many had started, came an order-in-council withdrawing land within a mile of the C. P. R. from settlement. This was unfortunate enough, as causing uncertainty in the selection of locations, and interfering with those who had already taken up land in ignorance of it, or had left for the far West before it was published. Worse, however, was to follow. Immigration kept pouring into the country wave on wave. The trail between Brandon and Qu'Appelle was white with the canvas of settlers.

They arrived in the far-famed Qu'Appelle Valley only to find it in the possession of Farm Company's men. That is, there were two or three men there, who, with the assistance of shingles stuck on poles, set up at irregular distances all over the country, and containing written notices to immigrants to keep off, as the land had been allotted to the Qu'Appelle Farm Company, hoped to frighten settlers away, till such time as they could make a selection and communicate with the Ottawa lobbies. The spectacle of three men holding the bridge at Rome against the Etruscan hordes was sublime. The spectacle of a similar number trying to keep at bay the hosts that last Spring descended on the Qu'Appelle Valley was ridiculous. It reminded the settlers of the Irish soldier who marched three prisoners up to his commanding officer, and, on being questioned, informed him that he had "surrounded them." They laughed, and selected the land that suited them, thinking the whole affair a huge joke or an unmitigated swindle. If Mr. Bell is now telling the truth, the latter supposition was correct.

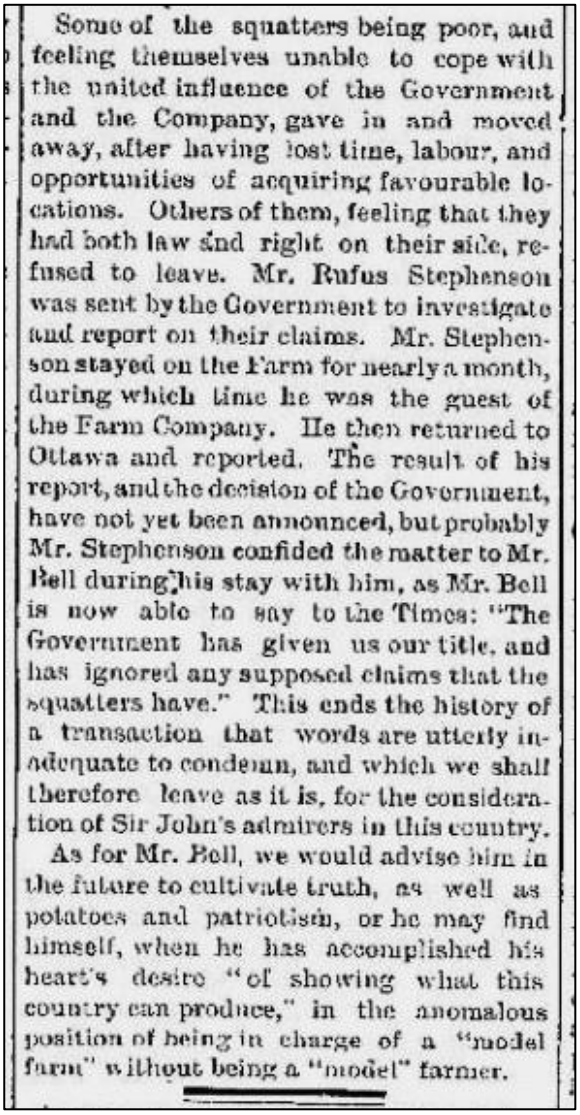
Part 3 of 6 97 kb

Part 4 of 6 102 kb



After a time, the Farm Company, having looked around them and made their arrangements at Ottawa, became more definite in their claims and no longer asserted their ownership of the whole country. It was not, however, until June that their lines were run and the people became fully aware that ten miles square of the very best and most favorably situated land in the North West, on which were between one and two hundred settlers, was supposed to be the property of a company. They could not and did not believe it. This is not a matter of surprise when it is known that the Company had not, up to that time, a scrap of documentary evidence of any kind to support their claim to the land which Mr. Bill says they had purchased and paid for. The squatters sent a man all the way to Brandon, some three or four hundred miles overland, to see if the grant to the Company had really been made. It was not until his return that it was fully credited that the Company's claim was bona fide. Yet, the Company, according to Mr. Bell, have "never considered these men as squatters, but as trespassers."

Part 5 of 6 83 kb



Some of the squatters being poor, and feeling themselves unable to cope with the united influence of the Government and the Company, gave in and moved away, after having lost time, labour, and opportunities of acquiring favourable locations. Others of them, feeling that they had both law and right on their side, refused to leave. Mr. Rufus Stephenson was sent by the Government to investigate and report on their claims. Mr. Stephenson stayed on the Farm for nearly a month, during which time he was the guest of the Farm Company. He then returned to Ottawa and reported. The result of his report, and the decision of the Government, have not yet been announced, but probably Mr. Stephenson confided the matter to Mr. Bell during his stay with him, as Mr. Bell is now able to say to the Times: "The Government has given us our title, and has ignored any supposed claims that the squatters have." This ends the history of a transaction that words are utterly inadequate to condemn, and which we shall therefore leave as it is, for the consideration of Sir John's admirers in this country.

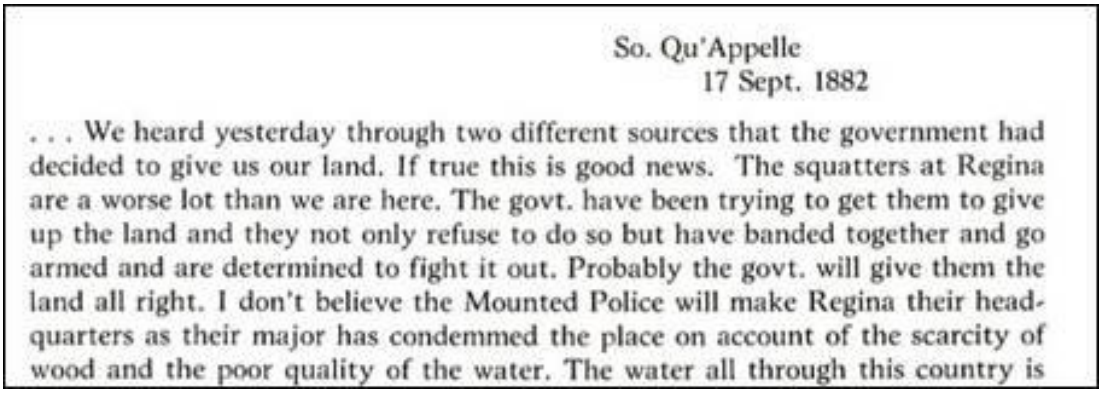
As for Mr. Bell, we would advise him in the future to cultivate truth, as well as potatoes and patriotism, or he may find himself, when he has accomplished his heart's desire "of showing what this country can produce," in the anomalous position of being in charge of a "model farm" without being a "model" farmer.

Part 6 of 6 106 kb

1883 – Feb. 20 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell goes to Ontario

"**PERSONAL** – Major W.R. Bell, of the Bell Farm, Qu'Appelle, has gone to Ontario."

1883 – Feb. 27 - update from E.J. Brooks on squatter situation at Indian Head and Regina



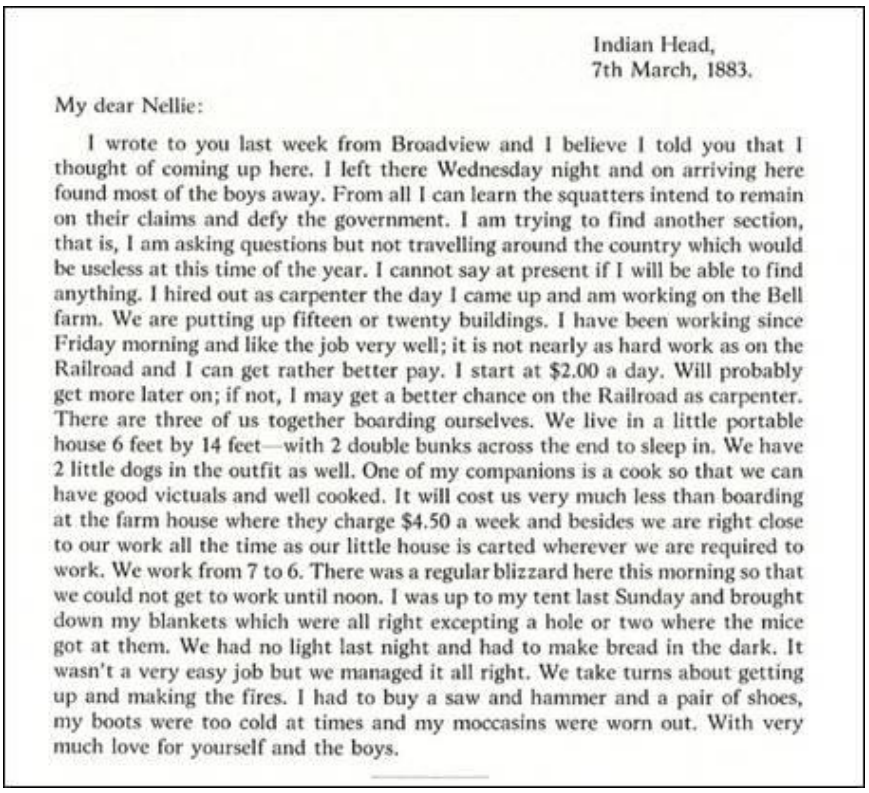
So. Qu'Appelle
17 Sept. 1882

. . . We heard yesterday through two different sources that the government had decided to give us our land. If true this is good news. The squatters at Regina are a worse lot than we are here. The govt. have been trying to get them to give up the land and they not only refuse to do so but have banded together and go armed and are determined to fight it out. Probably the govt. will give them the land all right. I don't believe the Mounted Police will make Regina their headquarters as their major has condemned the place on account of the scarcity of wood and the poor quality of the water. The water all through this country is

1883 – March 1 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – first issue of the *Regina Leader* included Bell Farm mention

> "Mr. Watson moved for correspondence respecting the Qu'Appelle Farming Company"
>
> (Frank: – possibly Dixie Watson, Clerk of Court, March 15, 1883; and returning officer in 1886 election)

1883 – March 3 – Letter from E.J. Books (a previous squatter) to his wile Nellie describing his carpentry work on the Bell Farm. (Source: Sask. History magazine: https://file.ac/bVVZ6WWFP10/SKHistory_Vol11_No1.pdf)



Indian Head,
7th March, 1883.

My dear Nellie:

I wrote to you last week from Broadview and I believe I told you that I thought of coming up here. I left there Wednesday night and on arriving here found most of the boys away. From all I can learn the squatters intend to remain on their claims and defy the government. I am trying to find another section, that is, I am asking questions but not travelling around the country which would be useless at this time of the year. I cannot say at present if I will be able to find anything. I hired out as carpenter the day I came up and am working on the Bell farm. We are putting up fifteen or twenty buildings. I have been working since Friday morning and like the job very well; it is not nearly as hard work as on the Railroad and I can get rather better pay. I start at $2.00 a day. Will probably get more later on; if not, I may get a better chance on the Railroad as carpenter. There are three of us together boarding ourselves. We live in a little portable house 6 feet by 14 feet—with 2 double bunks across the end to sleep in. We have 2 little dogs in the outfit as well. One of my companions is a cook so that we can have good victuals and well cooked. It will cost us very much less than boarding at the farm house where they charge $4.50 a week and besides we are right close to our work all the time as our little house is carted wherever we are required to work. We work from 7 to 6. There was a regular blizzard here this morning so that we could not get to work until noon. I was up to my tent last Sunday and brought down my blankets which were all right excepting a hole or two where the mice got at them. We had no light last night and had to make bread in the dark. It wasn't a very easy job but we managed it all right. We take turns about getting up and making the fires. I had to buy a saw and hammer and a pair of shoes, my boots were too cold at times and my moccasins were worn out. With very much love for yourself and the boys.

1883 – March 6 – Letter from Major Bell to Sir John A. Macdonald (Min. of the Interior), promoting hiring of indigenous people on the Bell Farm:

> "- 2 - Another very important benefit which the Country will derive from our Farm is the employment of Indians in the harvest fields. I have conferred with the Indian Commissioner on the matter and he has promised assistance and also have spoken to several of the Chiefs in our neighbourhood who seemed pleased with the proposition and the prospects of earning good wages and at the same time learning how to farm."
>
> (Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

1883 – March 6 – Bell applies for Land on which Town of Indian Head will be built

> "In another letter dated 6th March ,1883, Mr. Bell makes application for letters patent for Section 24, Township 18, Range 13, west of the 2nd meridian. (now the site of Indian Head, Saskatchewan) In this letter Mr. Bell states:

> "In complying with the settlement conditions, our Company finds it necessary to build other than farm buildings (in order to provide for the twelve hundred to fifteen hundred people we are obliged to place within out limits,) such as Hotels, Stores, Warehouses, Churches, and School Houses."
>
> "We are also endeavouring to induce Merchants, Manufacturers and Mechanics to settle within our possessions. In order to do this we must be in a position to give a Deed to those who will locate in our Town."

"This section of land, excepting that portion required for railway purpose

s, was sold to the Farming Company at the rate of $8.00 per acre and Letters Patent were issued in the name of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Limited on the 30th of May, 1883."

(Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

1883 – March 14 – Brooks further describes his carpentry work on the Bell Farm

Indian Head,
14th March, 1883.

I suppose you will feel anxious to know how I am getting along in my new place and I must try and tell you all about it. We live about 3 miles from Indian Head on the Bell farm, and we move our house on a pair of sleds with 2 horses

as often as our place of work gets too far away to walk conveniently back and forth for meals. I have got along nicely so far and find the work very much easier and more interesting than working on the Railroad. We are able to buy bread but sometimes make it, as well as biscuits, and use baking powder instead of yeast. We have oatmeal, rice, prunes, dried apples, bacon, beans, etc. For the last 2 days we have eaten beans at every meal and I am cooking some more to-night. They taste better here than at home but are very much more expensive ($6.00 a bushel). I get up first every other morning to prepare breakfast, and generally get up about quarter past five which does not agree with me very well. I have not been down to the city but once since I left Broadview so that you can see I am quite steady; if my wife was there *perhaps* I would go oftener. There are but two of us now, the other chap was quite sick with a bad cold and went down to the city and has not yet returned. Four of us can get out, and put up easily two house frames in a day, the houses are 23 x 26, one story high with a roof like the Hawse's. Our object is to put them up strong, cheap and speedily. We had a couple of blizzards last week, half day Thursday, all Friday night and all day Friday; the last day was a caution, we worked all that day most of the time inside and got along first rate. I expect we will have some more of the same kind before April. If there is no loose snow it is not nearly as bad—snow is going quite rapidly under the influence of the wind and sun. You would hardly know me now that I have got so black. I must try and send you a rough sketch of our home inside and outside . . . .

(18th). Haven't rec'd a letter from you for 3 weeks. Down town to-day squatters say they are going to stay on their land.

1883 – March 19 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 8 – Mr. Rutledge, London, visits Bell Farm to see his brother

> "**PERSONAL –** Mr. Rutledge, a London barrister, is at the Potter. He comes to visit his brother, who is connected with the Bell Farm. Mr. Rutledge is taking a look at the land of promise and if he likes it, will invest and probably practice here. He goes west tomorrow morning."

1883 – March 23 – Update on squatters from E.J. Brooks letter to Nellie; also reports on his carpentry work.

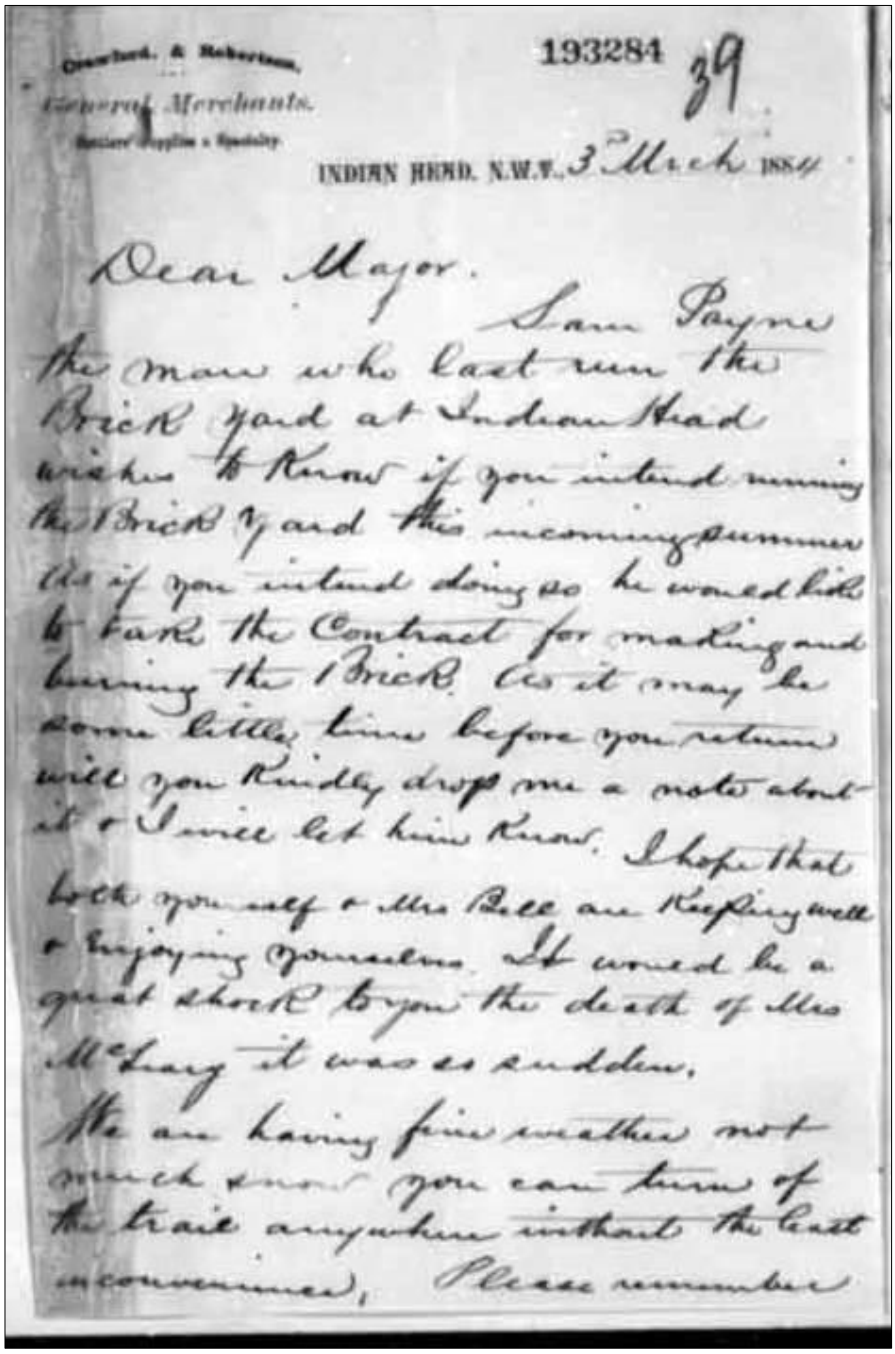
Indian Head,
23rd March, 1883.

It is just twenty minutes of eight and supper for four and two to eat it is hardly over, dishes not washed and not liable to be for a day or two. My partner and I are both writing. The fire burns brightly by my side and the wind howls outside but we are happy and snug. I am busy thinking of my *frau* and little lads far away, and expect they are in the land of dreams and happy too. The weather has been quite mild all this week. Yesterday it was very warm indeed, to-day it has been windy but very soft. Did you ever see a mirage? I never did until yesterday, when I saw in the sky the country 40 miles north of here; it was a beautiful sight. I am told this kind of thing is very common here but never happened to take any notice of them before. A good many of the squatters who went north on a freighting expedition have returned. They do not like the country at all; they say that nearly all of it is very poor land and very rough. Sloughs and bluffs mostly. I was down town last Sunday the first time for two weeks and mailed a letter to you. I had dinner and tea with some of my old chums. They tell me that the squatters are bound to stick to their land and that most of those who went to Ontario during the winter are either on their way back or will be so very soon. We are writing to Mr. Watson, M.P. for Manitoba, who is at present in Ottawa

giving him our experience as well as sundry statements regarding Mr. Bell and the agents sent up here by the government. Mr. Watson is trying to find out all about the Bell Co. and their relation to the government, and we write him so that he can be thoroughly posted. . . . You must not believe all you see in the papers or hear, good or bad about this country. A good many people have suffered from the cold this winter I do not doubt, but I have not heard of any woman and 3 children freezing to death. Most but not all of the houses here are made one story high so that the wind does not have very much effect on them. You think you would be afraid of Indians, do you? They are the most harmless of the populations in this country . . . . There is plenty of water at the city—the C.P.R. dug a well 53 feet deep and have 18 feet of water. The water is very hard, even snow water is hardly soft . . . . My partner and I were figuring up to-night how much our board cost us each for a week for the last 3 weeks. It comes to $1.96. Not very much that for a country where oatmeal and cornmeal are 8 cts a lb—rice 10c, sugar 15c, ham or bacon 25, fresh pork by the quarter 15c, beef 15c, etc. If we had a cow and a place to keep her, we could live well and cheaply. Of course we have a lot of stuff on hand but all good and necessary. I am getting along very well as far as I can judge and like the work well. I have been helping at barn building lately and am now boss on a small one and have *one* man under my eye besides myself. Would you like to live in Chicago with your boys? Immigrants are arriving here daily. The Bell Farming Co. have imported a blooming lot of English Cockneys. Ah! the blawsted country ye know . . . .

1883 – Bell ran a brick yard in 1883:

On March 3, 1884 Robert Crawford wrote to Major Bell stating that Sam Payne, who made bricks for Bell previously (presumably in 1883), wants to do so again in 1884.



193284 39

Crawford & Robertson,
General Merchants.

INDIAN HEAD, N.W.T. 3rd March 1884

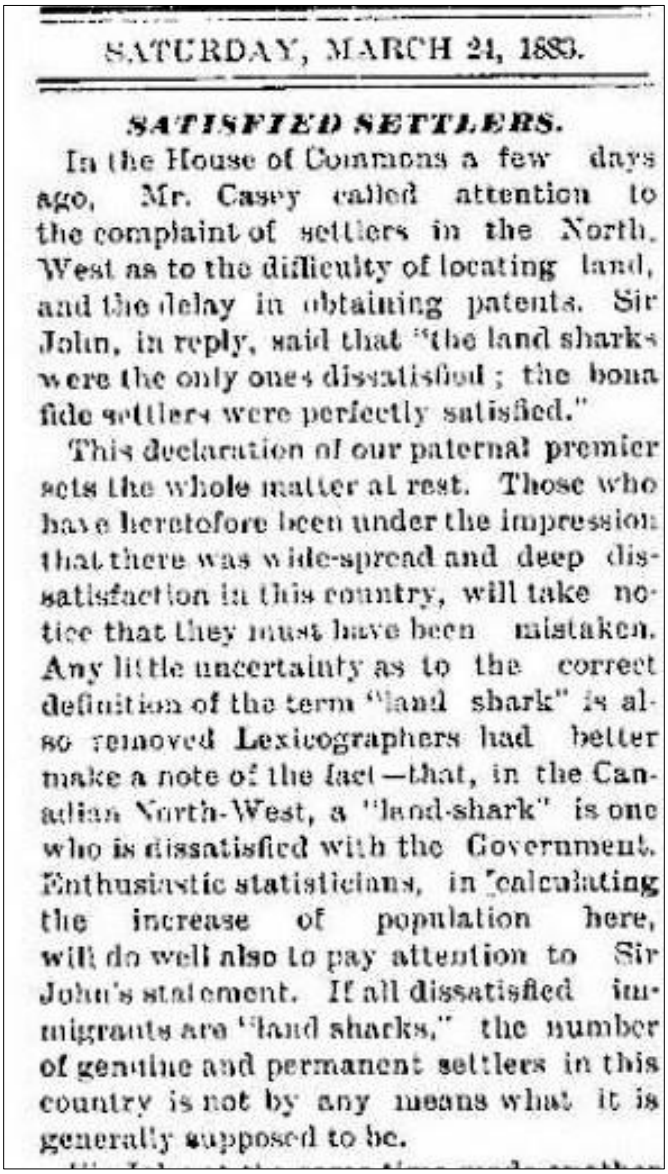
Dear Major.

Sam Payne the man who last run the Brick yard at Indian Head wishes to know if you intend running the Brick Yard this coming summer if you intend doing so he would like to take the Contract for making and burning the Brick. As it may be some little time before you return will you kindly drop me a note about it & I will let him know. I hope that both yourself & Mrs Bell are keeping well & enjoying yourselves. It would be a great shock to you the death of Mrs McLeay it was so sudden.

We are having fine weather not much snow you can turn of the trail anywhere in that the least inconvenience, Please remember

66 kb

1883 – March 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – A long editorial on squatters' rights

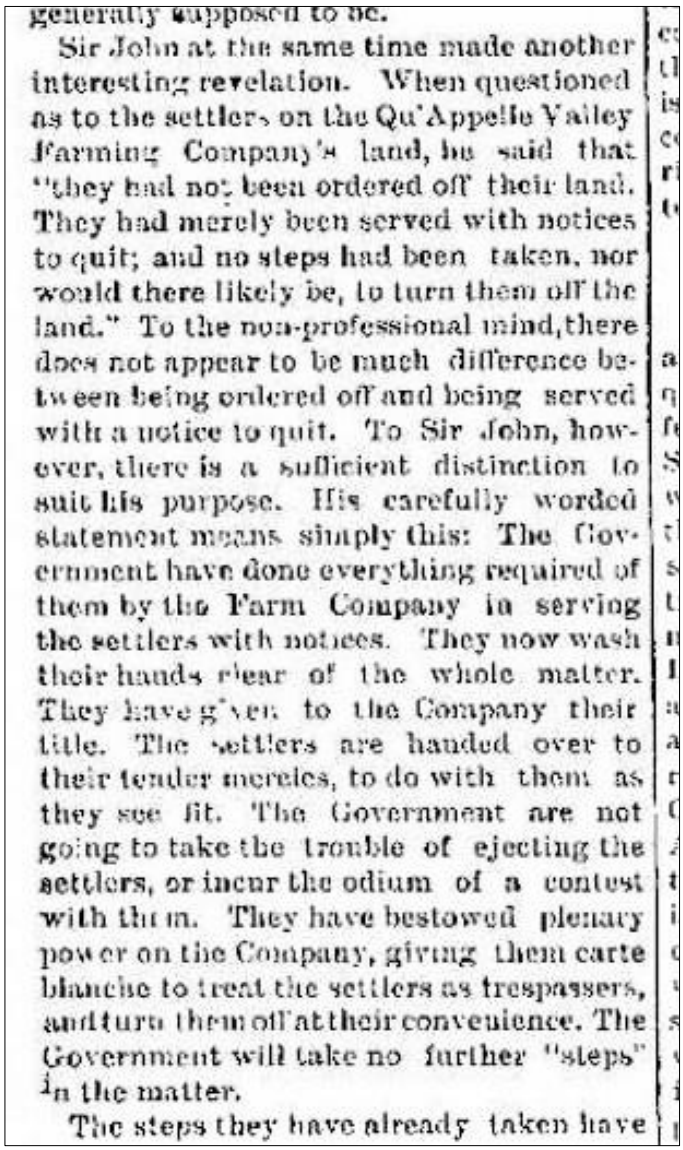


SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1883.

SATISFIED SETTLERS.

In the House of Commons a few days ago, Mr. Casey called attention to the complaint of settlers in the North West as to the difficulty of locating land, and the delay in obtaining patents. Sir John, in reply, said that "the land sharks were the only ones dissatisfied; the bona fide settlers were perfectly satisfied."

This declaration of our paternal premier sets the whole matter at rest. Those who have heretofore been under the impression that there was wide-spread and deep dissatisfaction in this country, will take notice that they must have been mistaken. Any little uncertainty as to the correct definition of the term "land shark" is also removed Lexicographers had better make a note of the fact—that, in the Canadian North-West, a "land-shark" is one who is dissatisfied with the Government. Enthusiastic statisticians, in calculating the increase of population here, will do well also to pay attention to Sir John's statement. If all dissatisfied immigrants are "land sharks," the number of genuine and permanent settlers in this country is not by any means what it is generally supposed to be.



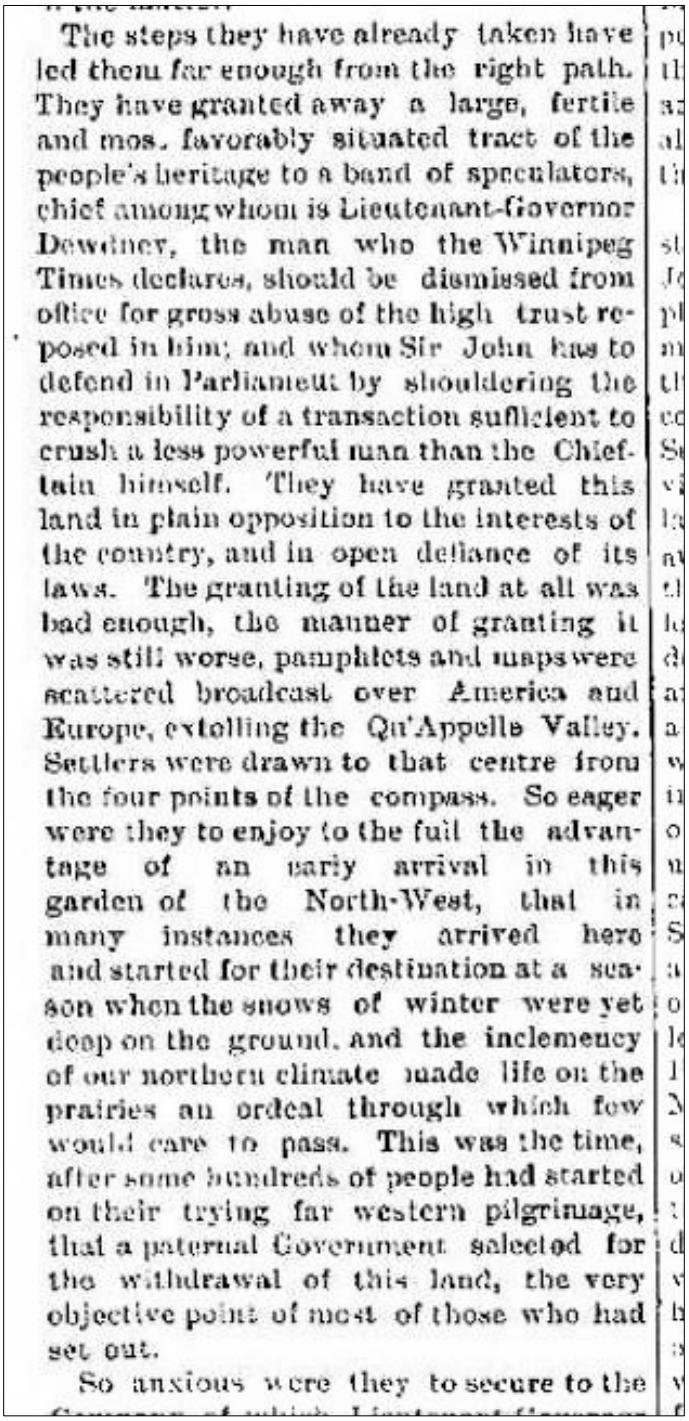
generally supposed to be.

Sir John at the same time made another interesting revelation. When questioned as to the settlers on the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company's land, he said that "they had not been ordered off their land. They had merely been served with notices to quit; and no steps had been taken, nor would there likely be, to turn them off the land." To the non-professional mind, there does not appear to be much difference between being ordered off and being served with a notice to quit. To Sir John, however, there is a sufficient distinction to suit his purpose. His carefully worded statement means simply this: The Government have done everything required of them by the Farm Company in serving the settlers with notices. They now wash their hands clear of the whole matter. They have given to the Company their title. The settlers are handed over to their tender mercies, to do with them as they see fit. The Government are not going to take the trouble of ejecting the settlers, or incur the odium of a contest with them. They have bestowed plenary power on the Company, giving them carte blanche to treat the settlers as trespassers, and turn them off at their convenience. The Government will take no further "steps" in the matter.

The steps they have already taken have

Part 1 of 7 – 120 kb

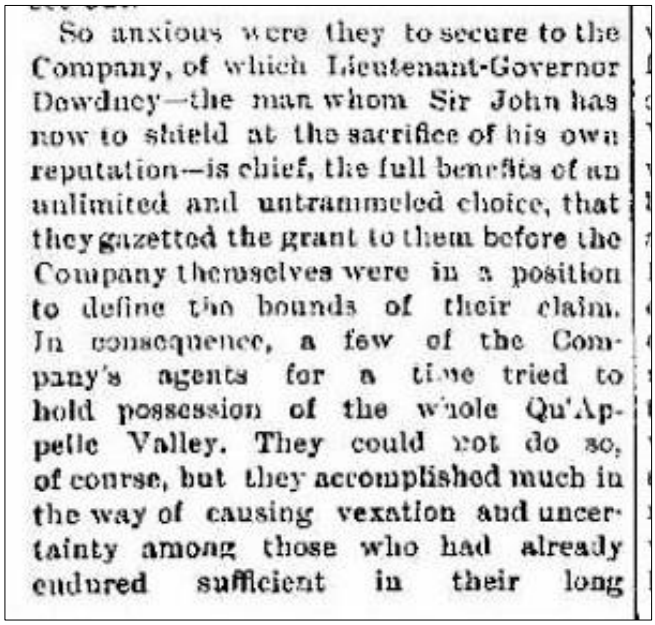
Part 2 of 7 - 123 kb



The steps they have already taken have led them far enough from the right path. They have granted away a large, fertile and most favorably situated tract of the people's heritage to a band of speculators, chief among whom is Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, the man who the Winnipeg Times declares, should be dismissed from office for gross abuse of the high trust reposed in him; and whom Sir John has to defend in Parliament by shouldering the responsibility of a transaction sufficient to crush a less powerful man than the Chieftain himself. They have granted this land in plain opposition to the interests of the country, and in open defiance of its laws. The granting of the land at all was bad enough, the manner of granting it was still worse, pamphlets and maps were scattered broadcast over America and Europe, extolling the Qu'Appelle Valley. Settlers were drawn to that centre from the four points of the compass. So eager were they to enjoy to the full the advantage of an early arrival in this garden of the North-West, that in many instances they arrived here and started for their destination at a season when the snows of winter were yet deep on the ground, and the inclemency of our northern climate made life on the prairies an ordeal through which few would care to pass. This was the time, after some hundreds of people had started on their trying far western pilgrimage, that a paternal Government selected for the withdrawal of this land, the very objective point of most of those who had set out.

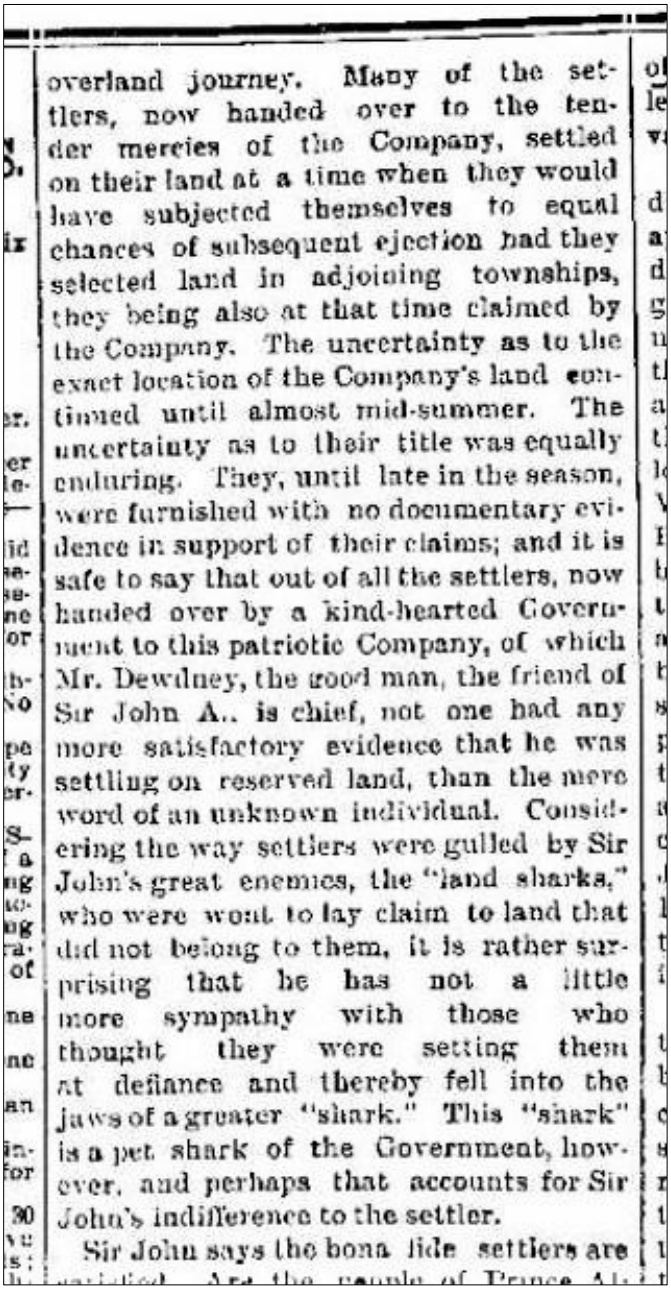
So anxious were they to secure to the

Part 3 pf 7 – 149 kb



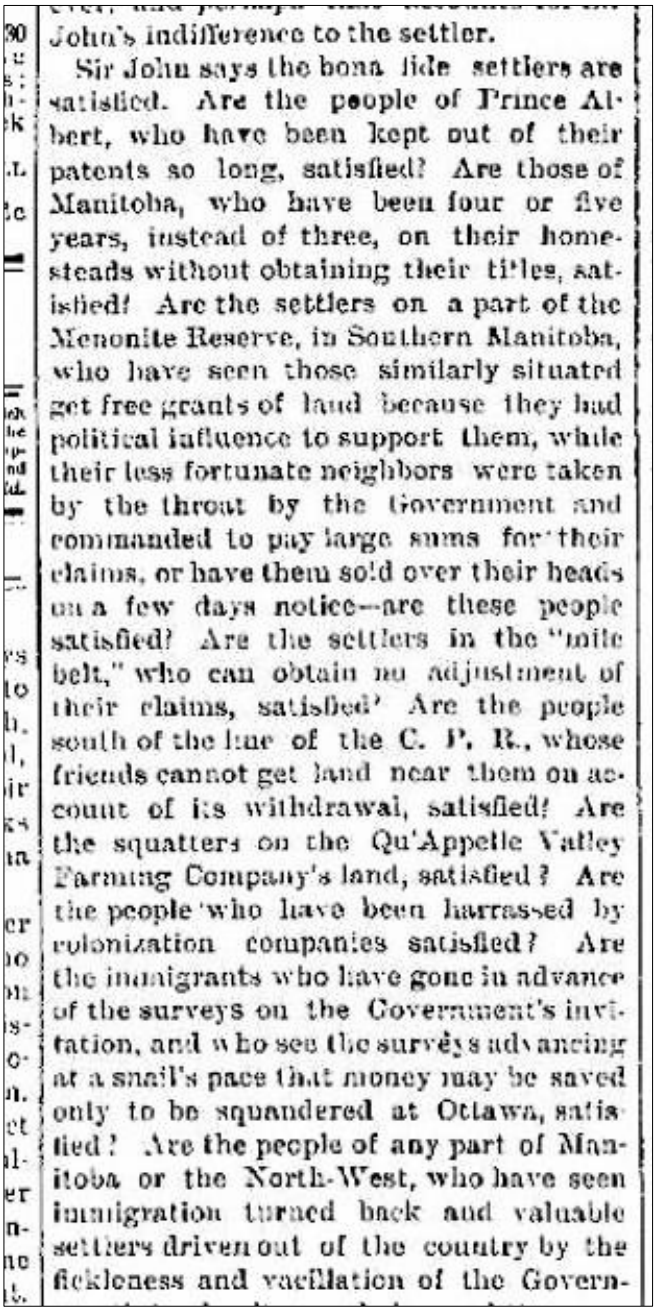
So anxious were they to secure to the Company, of which Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney—the man whom Sir John has now to shield at the sacrifice of his own reputation—is chief, the full benefits of an unlimited and untrammeled choice, that they gazetted the grant to them before the Company themselves were in a position to define the bounds of their claim. In consequence, a few of the Company's agents for a time tried to hold possession of the whole Qu'Appelle Valley. They could not do so, of course, but they accomplished much in the way of causing vexation and uncertainty among those who had already endured sufficient in their long

Part 4 of 7 - 91 kb



overland journey. Many of the settlers, now handed over to the tender mercies of the Company, settled on their land at a time when they would have subjected themselves to equal chances of subsequent ejection had they selected land in adjoining townships, they being also at that time claimed by the Company. The uncertainty as to the exact location of the Company's land continued until almost mid-summer. The uncertainty as to their title was equally enduring. They, until late in the season, were furnished with no documentary evidence in support of their claims; and it is safe to say that out of all the settlers, now handed over by a kind-hearted Government to this patriotic Company, of which Mr. Dewdney, the good man, the friend of Sir John A.. is chief, not one had any more satisfactory evidence that he was settling on reserved land, than the mere word of an unknown individual. Considering the way settlers were gulled by Sir John's great enemies, the "land sharks," who were wont to lay claim to land that did not belong to them, it is rather surprising that he has not a little more sympathy with those who thought they were setting them at defiance and thereby fell into the jaws of a greater "shark." This "shark" is a pet shark of the Government, however, and perhaps that accounts for Sir John's indifference to the settler.

Sir John says the bona fide settlers are

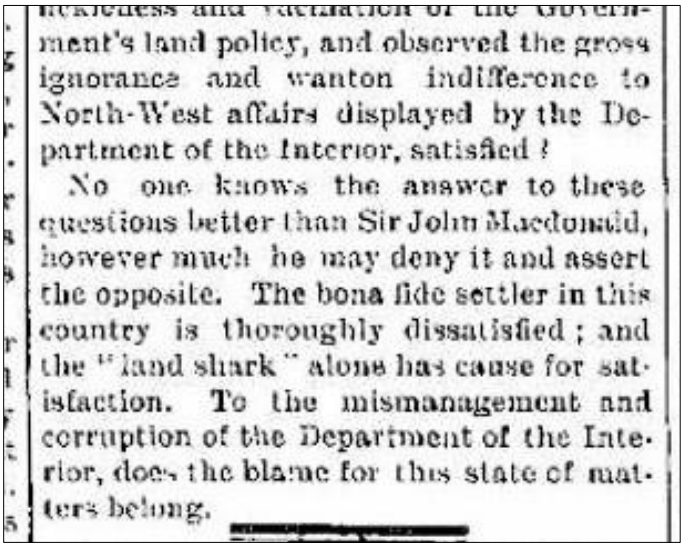


John's indifference to the settler.

Sir John says the bona fide settlers are satisfied. Are the people of Prince Albert, who have been kept out of their patents so long, satisfied? Are those of Manitoba, who have been four or five years, instead of three, on their homesteads without obtaining their titles, satisfied? Are the settlers on a part of the Menonite Reserve, in Southern Manitoba, who have seen those similarly situated get free grants of land because they had political influence to support them, while their less fortunate neighbors were taken by the throat by the Government and commanded to pay large sums for their claims, or have them sold over their heads on a few days notice—are these people satisfied? Are the settlers in the "mile belt," who can obtain no adjustment of their claims, satisfied? Are the people south of the line of the C. P. R., whose friends cannot get land near them on account of its withdrawal, satisfied? Are the squatters on the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company's land, satisfied? Are the people who have been harrassed by colonization companies satisfied? Are the immigrants who have gone in advance of the surveys on the Government's invitation, and who see the surveys advancing at a snail's pace that money may be saved only to be squandered at Ottawa, satisfied? Are the people of any part of Manitoba or the North-West, who have seen immigration turned back and valuable settlers driven out of the country by the fickleness and vacillation of the Govern-

Part 5 of 7 – 144 kb

Part 6 of 7 - 149 kb



ment's land policy, and observed the gross ignorance and wanton indifference to North-West affairs displayed by the Department of the Interior, satisfied ?

No one knows the answer to these questions better than Sir John Macdonald, however much he may deny it and assert the opposite. The bona fide settler in this country is thoroughly dissatisfied ; and the "land shark" alone has cause for satisfaction. To the mismanagement and corruption of the Department of the Interior, does the blame for this state of matters belong.

Part 7 of 7 – 80 kb

1883 – March 28 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* - 45 horses being shipped from Ottawa to Bell Farm by veterinarian James Harris

> "Dr. James Harris, V.S. of Ottawa, and who spent last winter in this city, will arrive to-day with forty-five splendid horses for the Qu'Appelle Valley farm. High prices were paid for the animals."

1883 – March 30 – *Colonies and India*, p. 6 – Squatters and Bell Farm issue

> **"CANADA.** . . . . . In Parliament Mr. Watson, when moving for papers relating to the grant of land in the north bed [should read: northwest] to the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., asserted that the squatters on those lands had not been fairly dealt with, and through their long settlement they had earned a prescriptive title which had not been sufficiently admitted or considered. . . . ."

1883 – March 31 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* - 80 horses being shipped to Bell Farm – appears to be an update in number from March 28th report:

> "The eighty horses which were brought up the other day from the Ottawa Valley by James Harris, V.S., for the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, were yesterday shipped west to their destination. The horses are all splendid looking animals and are in excellent condition."

1883 – April 1 – Autumn – Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 1, p. 11, Letter from J. McD. Gordon, Dec. 22, 1883, Regina

THE BELL FARM.

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE,
REGINA, 22nd December, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report of the operations, and their results, of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, on the tract alloted to them under authority of the Order in Council dated the 3rd April, 1882.

The selection of the land was completed early in the spring of 1882, but no action was taken by the Company towards preparing the soil for cultivation until the 17th June. From this date breaking was continuously carried on during the summer and autumn. On the 6th November, when the frost prevented further work of this nature, 2,400 acres were ready for harrowing. This breaking was done by contract, as the prompt action necessary on the part of the Company to comply with the conditions of their grant did not admit of procuring sufficient stock and material of their own with which to undertake the first season's work.

In the summer of 1882, dwellings, stables, storehouses and sheds requisite for the accommodation of labourers, stock and implements were erected and, so far as practicable, every arrangement that would facilitate the early commencement of work in the spring was perfected.

On the 1st of April, 1883, a number of labourers and their families, seventy-three horses, and several car loads of implements and machinery arrived at the farm, and on the 9th of the same month, almost before the snow had disappeared, harrowing the sod began. On the 14th April seeding was started. The seed was put into perfectly wet ground, in some places so wet that small pools had formed. In dry seasons, such as the past one, the advantage of seeding while the earth is in a saturated condition is apparent in the more advanced state of growth of the crop so planted than of that planted at a later period. Six days after seeding the wheat appeared above ground, but owing to a long spell of dry weather, made very little headway before the middle of June. About this time the first and only rain shower of any account fell, and brought the grain well up. The rain was followed by a continual period of cold dry weather, which delayed harvest several weeks beyond the usual time, and it was not until the 27th of August that grain cutting commenced.

In threshing, the grain is carried, by means of an elevator attachment on the thresher, from the spout of the machine to portable granaries placed in the centre of each field after harvest, and is there stored until fall ploughing is finished, when the granaries are drawn to the storehouse. By this system, an estimated saving of five cents per bushel in handling and carting the crop is effected.

Of the area cropped during the past season, 1,200 acres were in wheat, 1,000 acres in oats, and 200 acres in potatoes, roots, &c.

249 kb

Twenty three thousand and twenty bushels of wheat were grown. Of this 21,720 bushels were of the finest quality, and average about two pounds per bushel above the standard weight. The balance, 1,300 bushels, was slightly frost bitten, though not materially injured for milling purposes. The seed from which this was raised was sown on 1st May, too late to obtain a wet start, and to this cause is attributed the damage from frost. The cost of production is placed at 42 cents per bushel.

The oat crop was of good quality, but, owing to late sowing and the dry season, the return per acre was poor. The yield was 18,000 bushels.

The roots and potatoes were very fine.

The force at work, when I visited the farm in the month of June, consisted of 82 men and 100 horses. This force was chiefly engaged in breaking up new land, and between fifty and sixty acres were daily broken. Twenty-seven cottages had been erected on various parts of the tract. Of these twenty-two were occupied by married labourers and their families. Tenants for the remaining five, which were not quite finished, were prepared to take possession as soon as the cottages were ready for occupation. Many of these labourers I found to be old country people, principally English.

The buildings now on the tract number 106. 7,000 acres have been broken ready for cultivation in the spring. Tree planting has also, to some extent, been done. The trees appear to be doing well.

Before closing this report, it may be well to give a short summary of the system on which the farm work has been carried out.

The sections are divided into three equal portions of 213 acres. On each of these divisions a cottage, stable and granary are erected, and a farmer placed in charge thereof. The following outfit, allotted to each farmer, consists of three horses, a sulky, plough, wagon, and self-binder.

This force is not sufficient to cultivate the whole 213 acres every year, yet any additons to it would unduly increase the cost of production. To obtain the best results from the land, it has been found necessary to divide every farm into three parts, two-thirds of which are cropped each year, and one-third is summer fallowed. By this method the whole is given a rest every three years, and the danger of working out the soil is obviated. An immediate benefit arises from thoroughly cultivating a portion of the land, inasmuch as the yield is larger than were the whole farm to be indifferently tilled.

Seeding over, the farmer proceeds to prepare for next season that portion of his farm not in crop. When this is finished, the grain is ready for harvesting. In harvest time, two labourers for each farmer are added to the working force, for the purpose of shocking up the grain, as it is cut by the self-binder. This operation takes about ten days. The extra hands are then transferred to a threshing machine gang. One machine does the work for every four farms, the working forces of which are combined to assist in the threshing of their respective crops. His grain threshed and stored in his granary, the farmer sets about preparing for spring seeding one-half of the area from which he has raised crop. This, with the portion ploughed between seed-time and harvest, makes up the quantity required for the ensuing season's operations.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

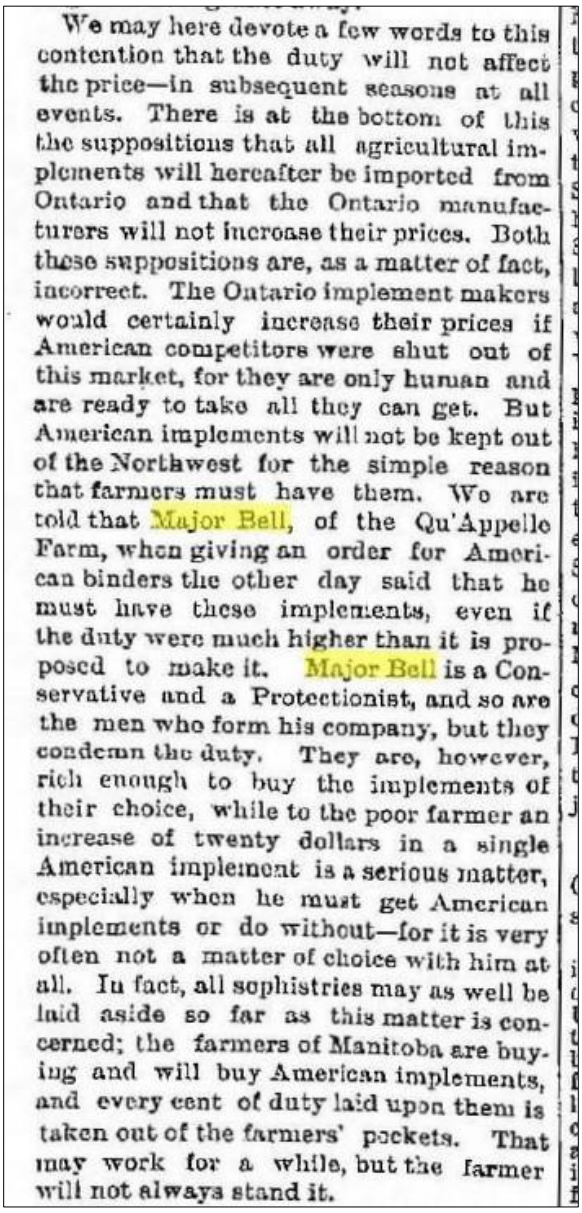
J. McD. GORDON,
Agent, Dominion Lands.

The Deputy of The Minister of the Interior.
Ottawa.

313 kb

1883 – April 7 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – American implements bought for Bell Farm

"**HANDICAPPING THE FARMER** . . . . .



We may here devote a few words to this contention that the duty will not affect the price—in subsequent seasons at all events. There is at the bottom of this the suppositions that all agricultural implements will hereafter be imported from Ontario and that the Ontario manufacturers will not increase their prices. Both these suppositions are, as a matter of fact, incorrect. The Ontario implement makers would certainly increase their prices if American competitors were shut out of this market, for they are only human and are ready to take all they can get. But American implements will not be kept out of the Northwest for the simple reason that farmers must have them. We are told that Major Bell, of the Qu'Appelle Farm, when giving an order for American binders the other day said that he must have these implements, even if the duty were much higher than it is proposed to make it. Major Bell is a Conservative and a Protectionist, and so are the men who form his company, but they condemn the duty. They are, however, rich enough to buy the implements of their choice, while to the poor farmer an increase of twenty dollars in a single American implement is a serious matter, especially when he must get American implements or do without—for it is very often not a matter of choice with him at all. In fact, all sophistries may as well be laid aside so far as this matter is concerned; the farmers of Manitoba are buying and will buy American implements, and every cent of duty laid upon them is taken out of the farmers' pockets. That may work for a while, but the farmer will not always stand it.

164 kb

1883 – April 8 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell reports on first spring seeding on the Bell Farm

"**CITY AND PROVINCE** - Mr. Eberts, Secretary-Treasurer of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, received a telegram yesterday from Major Bell, which states that harrowing commenced on Thursday, March 27th,and seeding on Monday, the 31st ult. A subsequent telegram says the weather was all that could be desired, and he expected to have all the seeding completed by April 20th. This means that there will be by that date 7,000 acres under crop on the Bell Farm."

1883 – April 11 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Harrowing and seeding at the Bell Farm

"**INDIAN HEAD – Seeding Begun** – Indian Head, April 10 – Harrowing and seeding was commenced yesterday on the Bell farm and by settlers. The weather is very fine and it is really a grand sight to see the strings of teams in their immense fields."

1883 – April 19 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Bell Farm court case

"LOCAL: Thursday, April 19, 1883: In the court on Tuesday, while the Bell Farm case was going on, with difficulty were the people kept quiet. Every opportunity for displaying their sympathies was sought to be availed of."

Also:

"Donaldson vs Qu'Appelle Farm Company – decisions reserved for one month – may be the same case as noted above.

"Donaldson vs. The Qu'Appelle Farm Co. – Mr. Benson for plaintiff; Mr. Eberts, of Winnipeg, for debts.

This was a case in which the ownership of a number of logs was in question. A deal of evidence was gone into, and authorities cited. The decision reserved for one month."

1883 – April 26 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Major Bell in Regina

"**LOCAL**: . . . . Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, who is stopping at the Royal, went east last night. Major Bell is delighted with the soil around Regina. He says there is no sod to rot – all you have to do is to plough and sow. *Thus every settler here as compared to Manitoba saves one year."*

Personal: "Mr. Bell, of the Bell Farm, visited the city and the surroundings. He says the prairie around Regina is the finest he ever saw. He believes there is a great future before Regina."

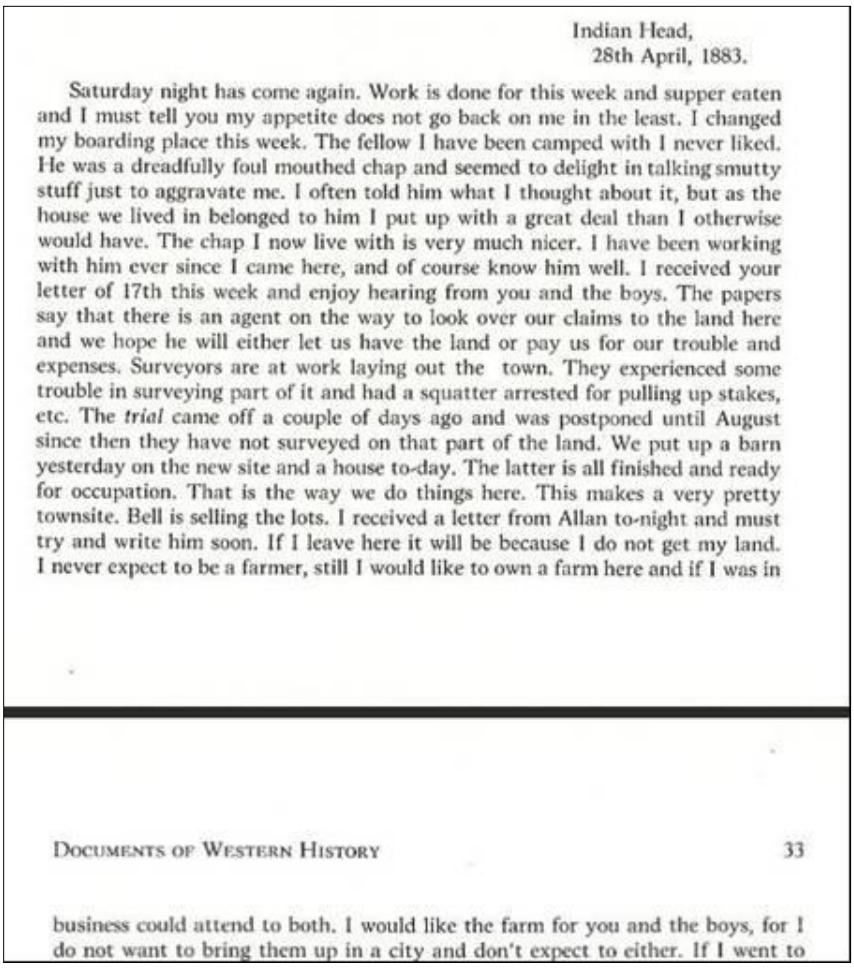
1883 – April 27 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 15 – Bell Farm hotel, elevator and flour mill to be built

"**CITY AND PROVINCE** . . . . A ten thousand dollar hotel, an elevator and grist mill are to be erected at Indian Head this spring."

1883 – April 27 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 15 – Report on Bell Farm seeding

"The Bell Farming Company at Qu'Appelle now has 1,800 acres seeded this season. Seventy-five Sulky plows will be set to work next week breaking for next season."

1883 – April 28 – Updates from E.J. Brooks on his daily routine and carpentry work on the Bell Farm



Indian Head,
28th April, 1883.

Saturday night has come again. Work is done for this week and supper eaten and I must tell you my appetite does not go back on me in the least. I changed my boarding place this week. The fellow I have been camped with I never liked. He was a dreadfully foul mouthed chap and seemed to delight in talking smutty stuff just to aggravate me. I often told him what I thought about it, but as the house we lived in belonged to him I put up with a great deal than I otherwise would have. The chap I now live with is very much nicer. I have been working with him ever since I came here, and of course know him well. I received your letter of 17th this week and enjoy hearing from you and the boys. The papers say that there is an agent on the way to look over our claims to the land here and we hope he will either let us have the land or pay us for our trouble and expenses. Surveyors are at work laying out the town. They experienced some trouble in surveying part of it and had a squatter arrested for pulling up stakes, etc. The *trial* came off a couple of days ago and was postponed until August since then they have not surveyed on that part of the land. We put up a barn yesterday on the new site and a house to-day. The latter is all finished and ready for occupation. That is the way we do things here. This makes a very pretty townsite. Bell is selling the lots. I received a letter from Allan to-night and must try and write him soon. If I leave here it will be because I do not get my land. I never expect to be a farmer, still I would like to own a farm here and if I was in

business could attend to both. I would like the farm for you and the boys, for I do not want to bring them up in a city and don't expect to either. If I went to

1883 – May 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 7 – Squatter Coleman vs Indian Head Townsite location

"**MANITOBA – Items of Interest from our Rural Correspondents – Points from Qu'Appelle . . . . . Fort Qu'Appelle** - . . . . Since writing last, a case connected with the squatters on the Qu'Appelle Valley Farm has been tried before Mr. Justice of the Peace Dixie Watson. The summons was for interfering with a Dominion Land Surveyor while in the discharge of his duties. It would appear from the evidence that the Farming Company is laying out a town site on Section 24 – one of the disputed sections - and Coleman, the party summoned, pulled up certain stakes that the surveyor engaged by the Farming Company had planted. Coleman is the squatter on the east half, and claims the land. He first verbally warned the surveyor not to come on his land, and subsequently served a written protest on this gentleman. No notice was taken of the protest, and as the work continued Coleman pulled up the stakes. Coleman was undefended, and as the surveyor swore that it was necessary for him, to properly carry on this work, to plant stakes on the land claimed by Colemen, the case was sent on for trial. The vexed question, therefore, is just as far from being settled as it was before the trial."

1883 – May 7 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – H.J. Eberts visits Toronto

"**CITY AND PROVINCE –** Mr. H.J. Eberts, of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, was in Toronto on Saturday."

1883 – May 8 – Senate Debates: *Great Canadian North-West,* p. 6 – Hon. J.B. Plumb — Seeding starts April 10

> ". . . There is nothing more remarkable than the regularity of the rain-falls in the months of June and July, which are the growing months in those latitudes, and the dry season which takes place at the time of the harvest. The seed is sown and harrowed-in in April, as soon as it can be covered, and before the frost is out of the ground. Seeding at the great Bell Farm at Qu'Appelle was begun at the 10th of April this year. * . . . . It begins to germinate in the warm soil on the surface , and, as the ice thaws beneath, it creates a moisture that promotes vegetation."
>
> *Note: on this farm, 2,700 acres have been sown to wheat since that day. The blades were 6 inches high on the 15th of May and promised a heavy yield."
>
> (Source for the above facts: unidentified; no indication that Member of Parliament Plumb ever visited the Bell Farm)

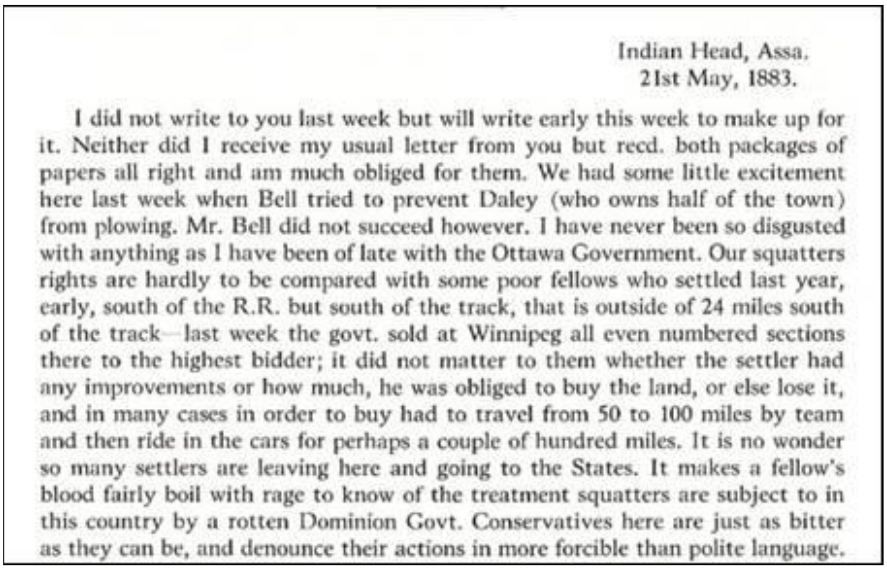
1883 – May 10 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p, 3 – John Flynn reports on Bell Farm operations and squatters

> "CURRENT PRAIRIE GOSSIP – From All Parts of Manitoba and the Northwest. OPERATIONS ON THE BELL FARM – John Flynn writes: I noticed a letter on the *Times* saying that the Bell farming company had seeded 3,800 acres this spring. The truth is, they have only seeded 2,000 acres, and many of those were never touched by the harrow. They have only 60 men at work, and not 200 as stated in the *Times*. The company are under the impression that by claiming they have done so much more than they really have, that the Government will put the squatters off. But they will find out their mistake before the summer is over."

1883 – May 15 – Letter - Dewdney informs Sir John A. Macdonald of his role in the Bell Farm.

> "Some remarks might be made in reference to myself as to Speculation, in which event I wish to tell you that outside of a small interest in the 28 sections of H. B. Co. lands bought from the company over a year ago, three H.B. Co. Town Lots in Winnipeg, a few Town Lots (H. B. Co.) Prince Albert, and 100 Shares (twenty-five of which I have given away) in the Bell Farming Co. (Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co.) I have no land interest whatever."
>
> "I have no connection with any Colonization Co., Grazing Co., neither have I attempted by any means to secure an acre of Govt. land. At the last meeting of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. I was appointed President & I feel proud of being at the Head of an enterprise that I think is going to do an immense deal of good to the Country. I bought the shares after the Company had been formed & paid the market rate."
>
> (Source: Memorandum from A.E. Mann, Dept of Mines & Resources, to Mr. Turner, 21 April 1938)

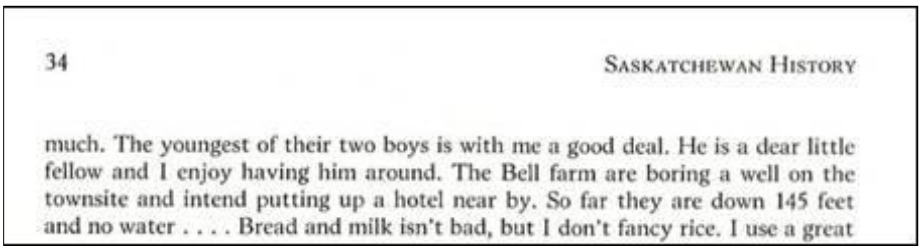
1883 – May 21 – Brooks comments on Bell Farm activities and the squatters' situation



Indian Head, Assa.
21st May, 1883.

I did not write to you last week but will write early this week to make up for it. Neither did I receive my usual letter from you but recd. both packages of papers all right and am much obliged for them. We had some little excitement here last week when Bell tried to prevent Daley (who owns half of the town) from plowing. Mr. Bell did not succeed however. I have never been so disgusted with anything as I have been of late with the Ottawa Government. Our squatters rights are hardly to be compared with some poor fellows who settled last year, early, south of the R.R. but south of the track, that is outside of 24 miles south of the track—last week the govt. sold at Winnipeg all even numbered sections there to the highest bidder; it did not matter to them whether the settler had any improvements or how much, he was obliged to buy the land, or else lose it, and in many cases in order to buy had to travel from 50 to 100 miles by team and then ride in the cars for perhaps a couple of hundred miles. It is no wonder so many settlers are leaving here and going to the States. It makes a fellow's blood fairly boil with rage to know of the treatment squatters are subject to in this country by a rotten Dominion Govt. Conservatives here are just as bitter as they can be, and denounce their actions in more forcible than polite language.

1883 – May 21 – Brooks reports that the Bell Farm is digging a well in town and building a Hotel



34 SASKATCHEWAN HISTORY

much. The youngest of their two boys is with me a good deal. He is a dear little fellow and I enjoy having him around. The Bell farm are boring a well on the townsite and intend putting up a hotel near by. So far they are down 145 feet and no water . . . . Bread and milk isn't bad, but I don't fancy rice. I use a great

1883 – May 26 – *NWT Gazette* – James Harvey and Major Bell appointed Justice of the Peace

1883 – May 28 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Van Horne & Lord Dunmore visit Bell Farm

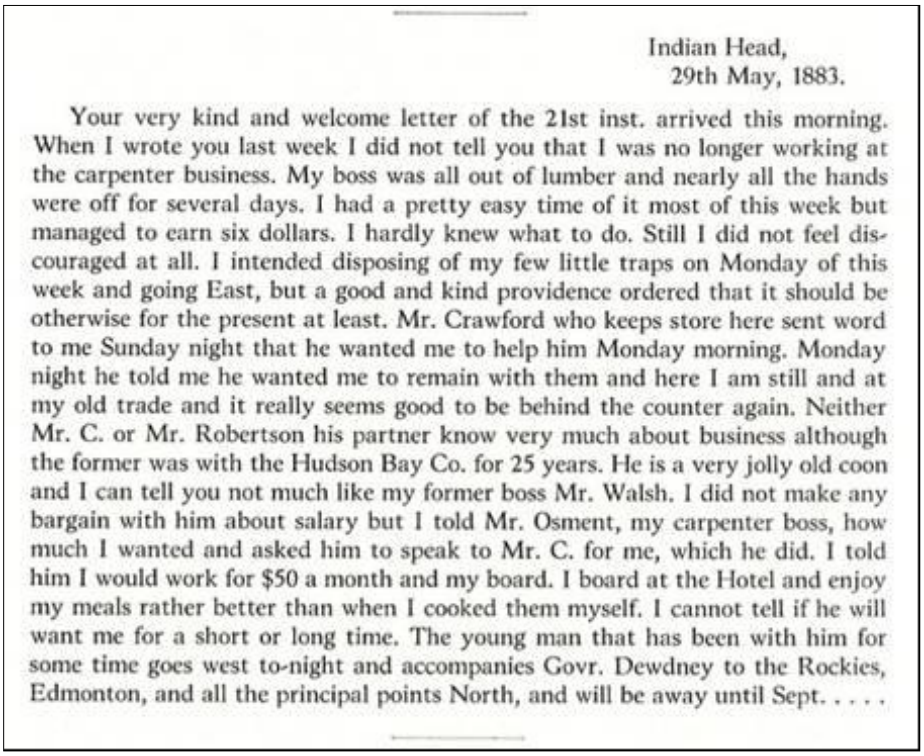
> **"TELEGRAPHIC. CANADIAN. REGINA -** Arrival of Van Horne and Party. Regina, N.W.T., May 27. – General Manager Van Horne of the C.P.R., Lord Dunmore and his party visited the Bell farm to-day and were all delighted with the business aspect of the same. Three thou. and five hundred acres are sown. All declared it a model farm in the most practical sense of the term."

1883 – May 28 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – Van Horne group visit the Bell Farm

> "W.C. VAN HORNE AND PARTY. [By Telegraph From Our Own Correspondent.] Moose Jaw, N.W.T., May 26. – General Manager Van Horne and party arrived at the Bell Farm at 6 Ppm. A glorious day. Everyone was pleased with the drive. Thirty-five hundred acres are seeded. So business like is the appearance that success is certain. So All the members of the party say."

1883 – May 29 – *NWT Gazette* – Thomas Routledge, Bell Farm manager - appointed Notary Public

1883 – May 29 – Brooks reports Bell Farm carpentry work has ended; and refers to Hotel – perhaps Bell's hotel.



Indian Head,
29th May, 1883.

Your very kind and welcome letter of the 21st inst. arrived this morning. When I wrote you last week I did not tell you that I was no longer working at the carpenter business. My boss was all out of lumber and nearly all the hands were off for several days. I had a pretty easy time of it most of this week but managed to earn six dollars. I hardly knew what to do. Still I did not feel discouraged at all. I intended disposing of my few little traps on Monday of this week and going East, but a good and kind providence ordered that it should be otherwise for the present at least. Mr. Crawford who keeps store here sent word to me Sunday night that he wanted me to help him Monday morning. Monday night he told me he wanted me to remain with them and here I am still and at my old trade and it really seems good to be behind the counter again. Neither Mr. C. or Mr. Robertson his partner know very much about business although the former was with the Hudson Bay Co. for 25 years. He is a very jolly old coon and I can tell you not much like my former boss Mr. Walsh. I did not make any bargain with him about salary but I told Mr. Osment, my carpenter boss, how much I wanted and asked him to speak to Mr. C. for me, which he did. I told him I would work for $50 a month and my board. I board at the Hotel and enjoy my meals rather better than when I cooked them myself. I cannot tell if he will want me for a short or long time. The young man that has been with him for some time goes west to-night and accompanies Govr. Dewdney to the Rockies, Edmonton, and all the principal points North, and will be away until Sept. . . . .

1883 – June 1 – *NWT Gazette* – Thomas Routledge, Bell Farm manager, appointed Issuer of Marriage Licences

1883 – June 1 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Van Horne , Lord Dunmore and company visit the Bell Farm

> "**CITY AND** PROVINCE . . . . . General Manager Van Horne, of the C.P.R., will, along with Lord Dunmore and party, leave this morning for the East, intending to go direct to Montreal. The English party left home April 21, and since that time a large stretch of country has been covered. They made the journey from Winnipeg to Medicine Hat in 27 hours, inclusive of a three hours stay at the Bell farm. This is considered extraordinary fast traveling, particularly that nearly 500 miles of the track is newly laid and not ballasted."

1883 – June 2 – *Man. Daily Free Press,* p. 1 – Eberts leaves Ottawa for Winnipeg

> "**THE CAPITAL**. **Returned to the Northwest** H.J. Eberts, secretary of the Bell Farming Company, Qu'Appelle, left for the Northwest to-day, having concluded his business with the Department of the Interior."

1883 – June 3 – E.J. Brooks letter: References to the hotel; and Major Bell promises two town lots for Presbyterian Church.

> ". . . Mosquitoes not very bad yet, but no doubt will soon be. I went into the hotel last night where they were having a *stag* dance, and it was comical enough to see all men dancing in their every-day working clothes. They were having a good time anyway. There are lots of women here now. I often have my meals quite late, and the hotel girls eat with me. I enjoy it tip-top. I wrote to Pa a couple of days ago and I hope he will go to Chicago. The Presbyterian Minister here has raised $550 and has a promise of two lots of land from Mr. Bell. He will probably get about a thousand dollars and then build a church. The Presbyterians have a great many young men preaching in this country and all I think have good congregations. . . ."

1883 – June 3 – Letter from Lieut. Gov. Edgar Dewdney to Sir John A. Macdonald re brickmaking

> "... brick is bring made at Indian Head and yards are expected to be started here *[Regina]* shortly."
>
> (Source: PAS: Collection R70.)

1883 – June 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Fight on Bell Farm between Major Bell and squatter Coleman

> "**INDIAN HEAD – Fight on the Bell Farm** – Indian Head. N.W.T. There has been a fight on the Bell farm between Manager Bell and a man named Coleman, a squatter. The matter will be aired before a magistrate."

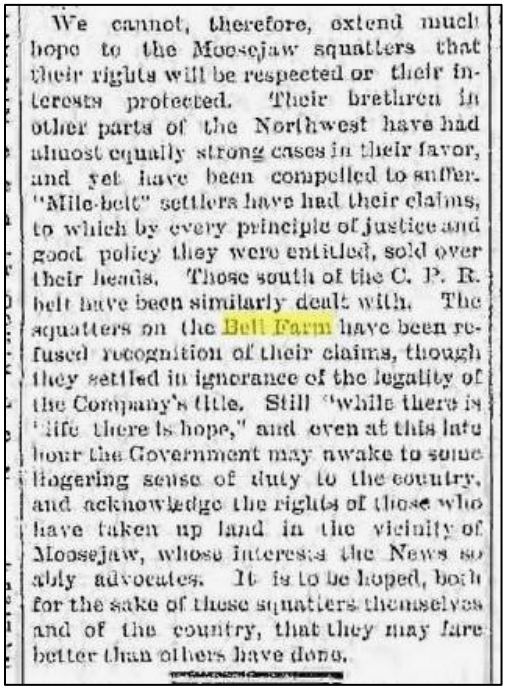
1883 – June 7 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 - Well Dug on Bell Farm . . . and a hotel started

> "**INDIAN HEAD** - *(from our own Correspondent*) Indian Head, June 5 – Indian Head is looking up. There is a lot of fine building going on and a fine large hotel started. A well has been sunk on the Bell farm. It is over 200 feet deep, and was dug by means of the steam process. They have found plenty of water – first class water. Stretching along the line there are furrows two miles long. You can have no idea how nice fifteen plows look going through the long furrows with three horses attached to each plow."

1883 – June 9 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun,* p. 5 – George Sutton, *Wpg. Sun* correspondent at Indian Head, reports on crops

> "George Sutton, Indian Head. – Seeding commenced the first week in April, but the snow was not all gone, and there were several hard frosts afterwards. The weather this spring has been the finest he ever knew for seeding. Most of the spring crops are up and promise a good harvest, provided there is plenty of rain during June." [Frank: as Sutton is the local correspondent for the *Winnipeg Daily Sun,* he likely visited the Bell Farm on various occasions.]

1883 – June 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Plight of the Bell Farm squatters



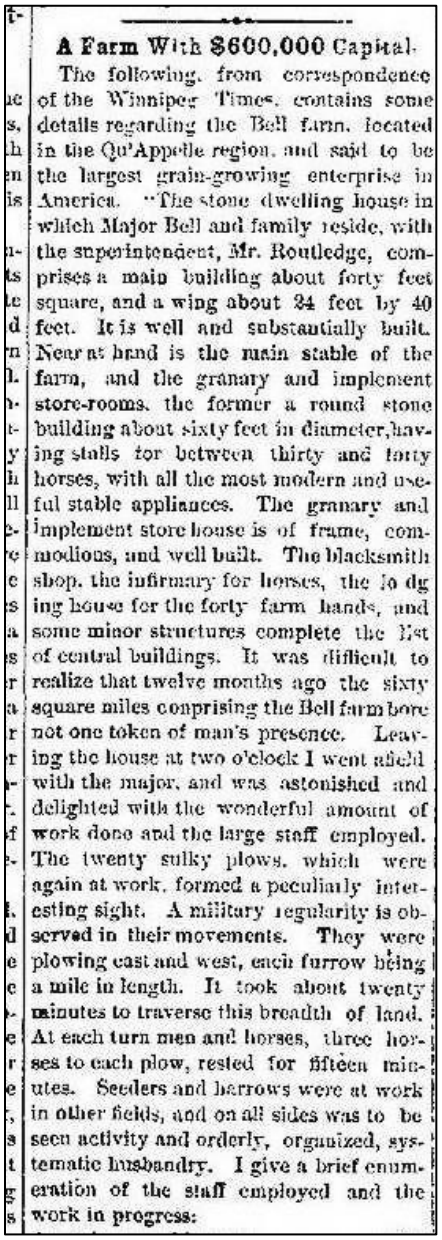
We cannot, therefore, extend much hope to the Moosejaw squatters that their rights will be respected or their interests protected. Their brethren in other parts of the Northwest have had almost equally strong cases in their favor, and yet have been compelled to suffer. "Mile-belt" settlers have had their claims, to which by every principle of justice and good policy they were entitled, sold over their heads. Those south of the C. P. R. belt have been similarly dealt with. The squatters on the Bell Farm have been refused recognition of their claims, though they settled in ignorance of the legality of the Company's title. Still "while there is life there is hope," and even at this late hour the Government may awake to some lingering sense of duty to the country, and acknowledge the rights of those who have taken up land in the vicinity of Moosejaw, whose interests the News so ably advocates. It is to be hoped, both for the sake of these squatters themselves and of the country, that they may fare better than others have done.

81 kb

1883 – June 14 – *Helena Weekly Herald* – Lord Dunmore report after trip to Bell Farm

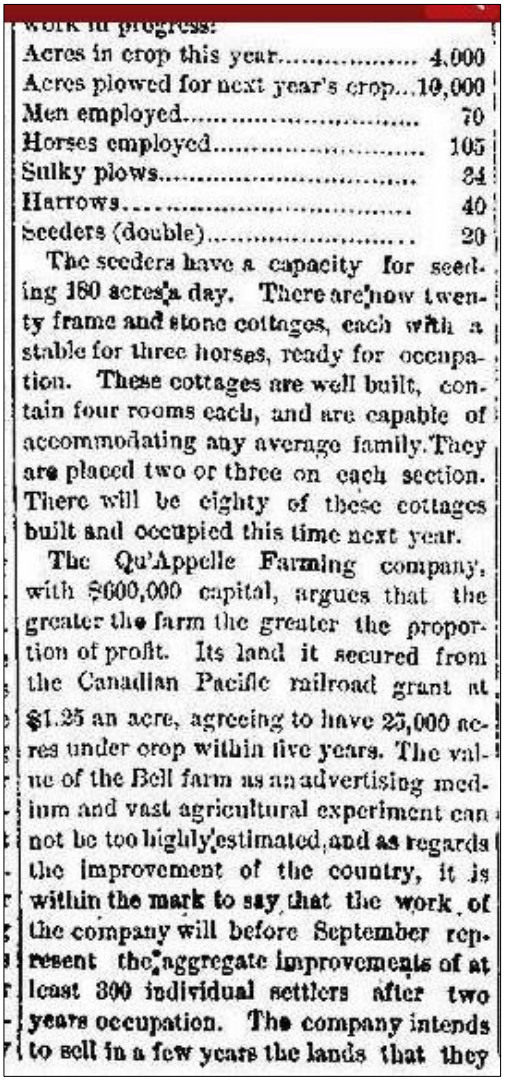
> "Lord Dunsmore, recently returned from the end of the track on the Canadian Pacific, gives a glowing account of the progress of the road and of the country through which it is building. . . .. The most remarkable part of the story is the rapidity of the work. He says the whole road has been laid at an average of four miles per day, and the manager offers to wager that he can lay ten miles in ten consecutive hours. He says that the entire country from Winnipeg to Regina – the new capital of the British Northwest Territory – is just as good wheat land as any in Minnesota or Dakota. This is the country where the British expect to win their independence of the United States for their daily bread. The Bell farm at Indian Head is alleged to surpass the celebrated Dalrymple farm in the Red River valley."

1883 – June 14 – *Dunkirk Evening Observer, New York*, p. 3 – Bell Farm report originating with the Winnipeg Times



A Farm With $600,000 Capital.

The following, from correspondence of the Winnipeg Times, contains some details regarding the Bell farm, located in the Qu'Appelle region, and said to be the largest grain-growing enterprise in America. "The stone dwelling house in which Major Bell and family reside, with the superintendent, Mr. Routledge, comprises a main building about forty feet square, and a wing about 24 feet by 40 feet. It is well and substantially built. Near at hand is the main stable of the farm, and the granary and implement store-rooms, the former a round stone building about sixty feet in diameter, having stalls for between thirty and forty horses, with all the most modern and useful stable appliances. The granary and implement store house is of frame, commodious, and well built. The blacksmith shop, the infirmary for horses, the fo dg ing house for the forty farm hands, and some minor structures complete the list of central buildings. It was difficult to realize that twelve months ago the sixty square miles comprising the Bell farm bore not one token of man's presence. Leaving the house at two o'clock I went afield with the major, and was astonished and delighted with the wonderful amount of work done and the large staff employed. The twenty sulky plows, which were again at work, formed a peculiarly interesting sight. A military regularity is observed in their movements. They were plowing east and west, each furrow being a mile in length. It took about twenty minutes to traverse this breadth of land. At each turn men and horses, three horses to each plow, rested for fifteen minutes. Seeders and harrows were at work in other fields, and on all sides was to be seen activity and orderly, organized, systematic husbandry. I give a brief enumeration of the staff employed and the work in progress:



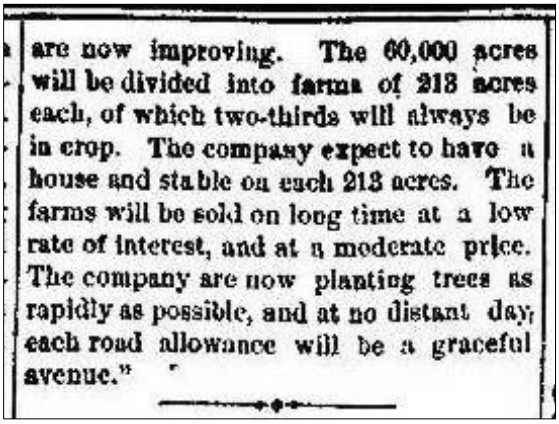
work in progress:

Acres in crop this year	4,000
Acres plowed for next year's crop	10,000
Men employed	70
Horses employed	105
Sulky plows	24
Harrows	40
Seeders (double)	20

The seeders have a capacity for seeding 160 acres a day. There are now twenty frame and stone cottages, each with a stable for three horses, ready for occupation. These cottages are well built, contain four rooms each, and are capable of accommodating any average family. They are placed two or three on each section. There will be eighty of these cottages built and occupied this time next year.

The Qu'Appelle Farming company, with $600,000 capital, argues that the greater the farm the greater the proportion of profit. Its land it secured from the Canadian Pacific railroad grant at $1.25 an acre, agreeing to have 25,000 acres under crop within five years. The value of the Bell farm as an advertising medium and vast agricultural experiment can not be too highly estimated, and as regards the improvement of the country, it is within the mark to say that the work of the company will before September represent the aggregate improvements of at least 300 individual settlers after two years occupation. The company intends to sell in a few years the lands that they

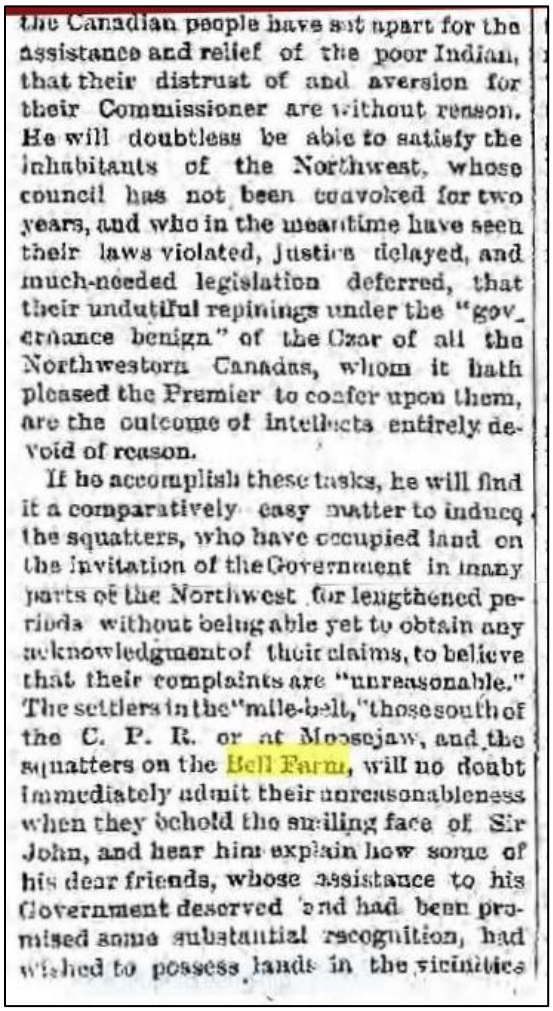
Part 1 of 3: 170 kb Part 2 of 3: 137 kb



are now improving. The 60,000 acres will be divided into farms of 213 acres each, of which two-thirds will always be in crop. The company expect to have a house and stable on each 213 acres. The farms will be sold on long time at a low rate of interest, and at a moderate price. The company are now planting trees as rapidly as possible, and at no distant day each road allowance will be a graceful avenue."

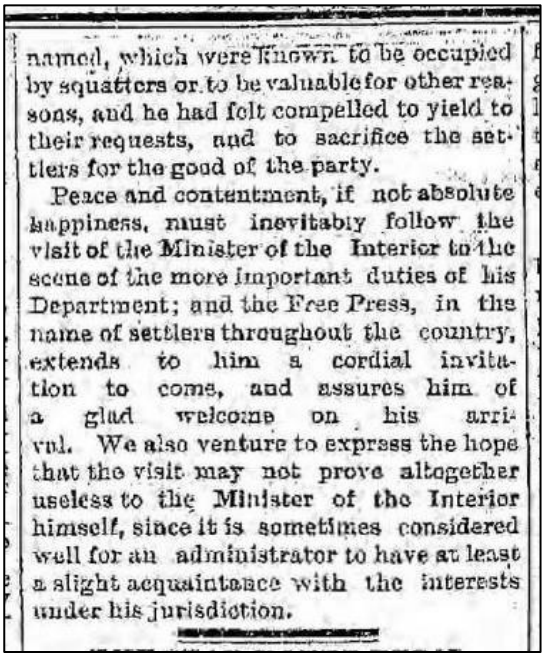
Part 3 of 3 75 kb

1883 – June 15 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Squatters want help from Prime Minister Macdonald



the Canadian people have set apart for the assistance and relief of the poor Indian, that their distrust of and aversion for their Commissioner are without reason. He will doubtless be able to satisfy the inhabitants of the Northwest, whose council has not been convoked for two years, and who in the meantime have seen their laws violated, justice delayed, and much-needed legislation deferred, that their undutiful repinings under the "governance benign" of the Czar of all the Northwestern Canadas, whom it hath pleased the Premier to confer upon them, are the outcome of intellects entirely devoid of reason.

If he accomplish these tasks, he will find it a comparatively easy matter to induce the squatters, who have occupied land on the invitation of the Government in many parts of the Northwest for lengthened periods without being able yet to obtain any acknowledgment of their claims, to believe that their complaints are "unreasonable." The settlers in the "mile-belt," those south of the C. P. R. or at Moosejaw, and the squatters on the Bell Farm, will no doubt immediately admit their unreasonableness when they behold the smiling face of Sir John, and hear him explain how some of his dear friends, whose assistance to his Government deserved and had been promised some substantial recognition, had wished to possess lands in the vicinities



named, which were known to be occupied by squatters or to be valuable for other reasons, and he had felt compelled to yield to their requests, and to sacrifice the settlers for the good of the party.

Peace and contentment, if not absolute happiness, must inevitably follow the visit of the Minister of the Interior to the scene of the more important duties of his Department; and the Free Press, in the name of settlers throughout the country, extends to him a cordial invitation to come, and assures him of a glad welcome on his arrival. We also venture to express the hope that the visit may not prove altogether useless to the Minister of the Interior himself, since it is sometimes considered well for an administrator to have at least a slight acquaintance with the interests under his jurisdiction.

Part 1 of 2 120 kb Part 2 of 2 97 kb

1883 – 15 June – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 8 – Rain welcome at the Bell Farm.

"**The Beautiful Rain.** Major Bell, of the Bell farm, is in the city. He reports that the country out west has been benefitted greatly by the recent rains. Crops look wonderfully well. Grain has grown five inches since the rain fell. There is a gratifying improvement all over the country, and the outlook is most encouraging."

1883 – June 16 – *The Railway Times*, Vol. 46, p. 615 – report on Lord Dunmore's trip

"Lord Dunmore has been making a tour of inspection in the Canadian North West in company with the manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway."

1883 – June 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 - Major Bell in Winnipeg, reports on harvest

"**PERSONAL** – Major bell, of the Bell farm, arrived from the west last night, and reports harvest nearly over and the yield of wheat beyond their most sanguine expectations."

1883 – June 21 – *Regina Leader* – Indian Head - Testing the Fowler Steam Plow on Sykes Farm and comments on Bell Farm

Fowler Steam Plow, possibly c.1900 210 kb

(Source: https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/File:Im20110717Weet-FowletPl.jpg)

INDIAN HEAD.

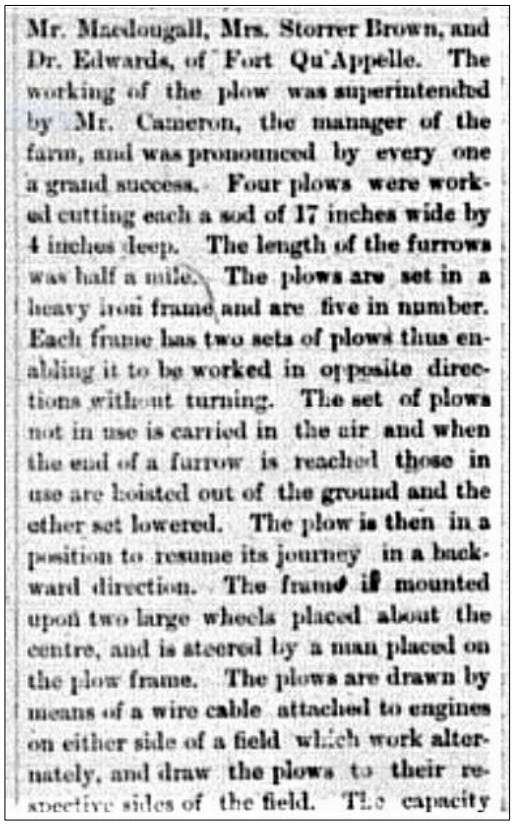
Trial of the Fowler Steam Plow.

The Bell Farm.

(From our own Correspondent.)

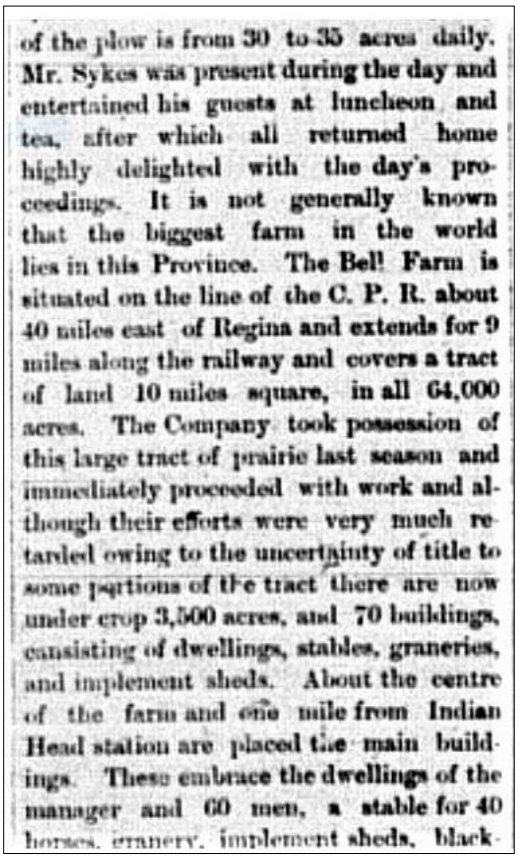
INDIAN HEAD, June 19.—On Saturday last on the invitation of Mr. Sykes, of the Sykes & Hughes farm, situated near Qu'Appelle station, a number of ladies and gentlemen assembled to witness a trial of the Fowler Steam Plow imported by this firm from England. Among those present were Major and Mrs. Bell; Mr. Routledge, superintendent of the Bell Farm, Mr. Gordon, Dominion Land Agent, Regina, Mr. Macdonald, Chief Factor H. B. Co., and Mrs Macdonald.

Part 1 117 kb



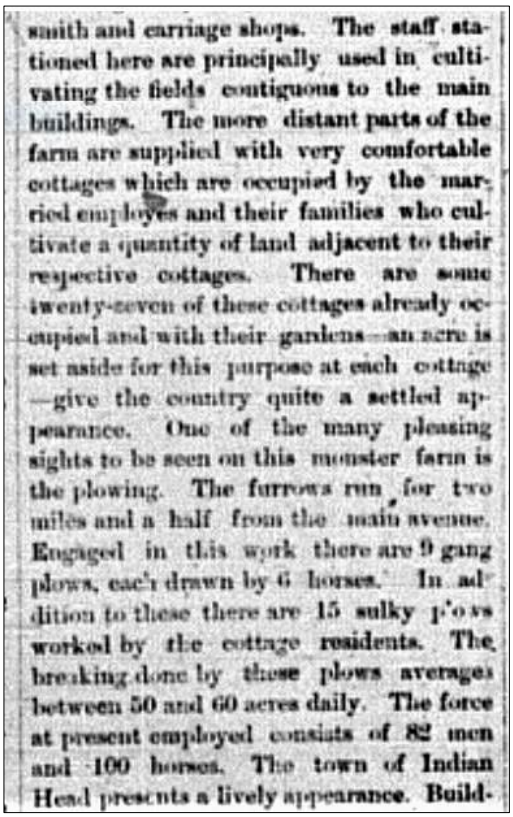
Mr. Macdougall, Mrs. Storrer Brown, and Dr. Edwards, of Fort Qu'Appelle. The working of the plow was superintended by Mr. Cameron, the manager of the farm, and was pronounced by every one a grand success. Four plows were worked cutting each a sod of 17 inches wide by 4 inches deep. The length of the furrows was half a mile. The plows are set in a heavy iron frame and are five in number. Each frame has two sets of plows thus enabling it to be worked in opposite directions without turning. The set of plows not in use is carried in the air and when the end of a furrow is reached those in use are hoisted out of the ground and the other set lowered. The plow is then in a position to resume its journey in a backward direction. The frame is mounted upon two large wheels placed about the centre, and is steered by a man placed on the plow frame. The plows are drawn by means of a wire cable attached to engines on either side of a field which work alternately, and draw the plows to their respective sides of the field. The capacity

Part 2 131 kb



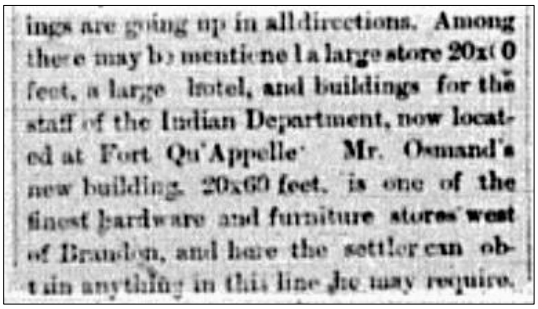
of the plow is from 30 to 35 acres daily. Mr. Sykes was present during the day and entertained his guests at luncheon and tea, after which all returned home highly delighted with the day's proceedings. It is not generally known that the biggest farm in the world lies in this Province. The Bell Farm is situated on the line of the C. P. R. about 40 miles east of Regina and extends for 9 miles along the railway and covers a tract of land 10 miles square, in all 64,000 acres. The Company took possession of this large tract of prairie last season and immediately proceeded with work and although their efforts were very much retarded owing to the uncertainty of title to some portions of the tract there are now under crop 3,500 acres, and 70 buildings, consisting of dwellings, stables, graneries, and implement sheds. About the centre of the farm and one mile from Indian Head station are placed the main buildings. These embrace the dwellings of the manager and 60 men, a stable for 40 horses, granery, implement sheds, black-

Part 3 133 kb



smith and carriage shops. The staff stationed here are principally used in cultivating the fields contiguous to the main buildings. The more distant parts of the farm are supplied with very comfortable cottages which are occupied by the married employes and their families who cultivate a quantity of land adjacent to their respective cottages. There are some twenty-seven of these cottages already occupied and with their gardens—an acre is set aside for this purpose at each cottage—give the country quite a settled appearance. One of the many pleasing sights to be seen on this monster farm is the plowing. The furrows run for two miles and a half from the main avenue. Engaged in this work there are 9 gang plows, each drawn by 6 horses. In addition to these there are 15 sulky plows worked by the cottage residents. The breaking done by these plows averages between 50 and 60 acres daily. The force at present employed consists of 82 men and 100 horses. The town of Indian Head presents a lively appearance. Build-

Part 4 128 kb


ings are going up in all directions. Among there may be mentioned a large store 20x60 feet, a large hotel, and buildings for the staff of the Indian Department, now located at Fort Qu'Appelle. Mr. Osmand's new building, 20x60 feet, is one of the finest hardware and furniture stores west of Brandon, and here the settler can obtain anything in this line he may require.

Part 5 63 kb

The *Leader* of 21 June 1883 carried an article regarding the testing of a Fowler steam plow on the Bell farm at Indian Head. The plow itself consists of a frame with two wheels on which the reversible moldboards were mounted. It cut 17-inch wide furrows up to 4 inches deep. The system consists of the plow and two steam engines, one situated on each side of the area to be plowed. The plow was pulled back and forth across the area by means of cables attached to winches mounted under each of the engines. A detailed description of the engines and their operation was provided in *Sykes*, page 13. This account would suggest that the demonstration was actually not on the Bell farm.

The Fowler steam plow system, manufactured in England, was widely used for plowing on large estates there. Many examples have been restored for demonstrations at farm machinery rallies there but this is the only reference to their use in Canada which has been located. It would

(Source: John Sled: "Lumsden: A Snapshot of a Prairie Community, 1901", 2020, Appendix E, p. 8)

1883 – June ___ - William Pearce, Inspector of Dominion Lands, visits Bell Farm to discuss matter of squatters.

Letter from Pearce to A. Walsh, Commissioner of Dominion Lands, dated 31 Oct. 1883, Winnipeg – Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – "Part 1, Page 3:

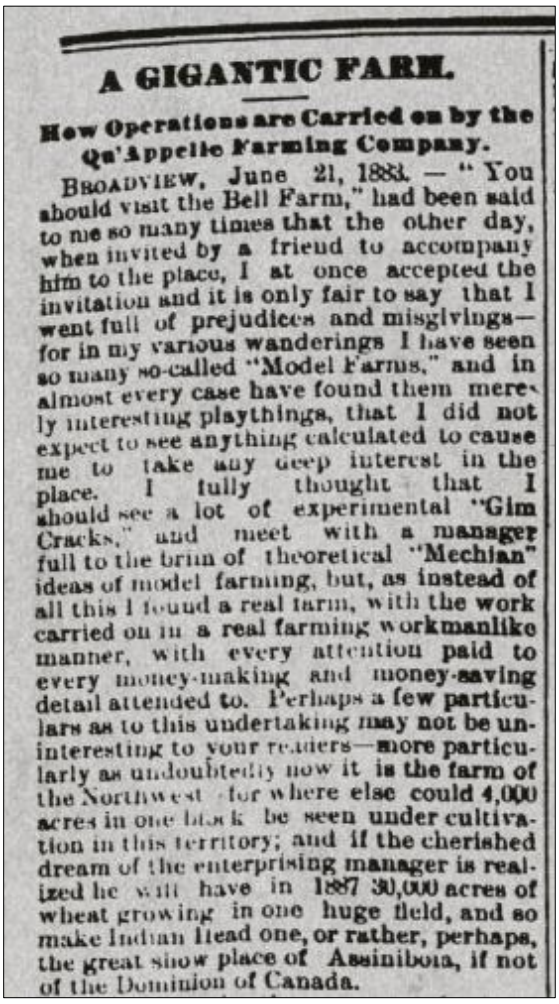
"In June, Indian Head was visited in connection with the case of the squatters on the Bell Farm."

1883 – no date – E-mail from Michelle Cabana about Fowler and other farm equipment:

From: michelle cabana, Saskatoon
Sent: September-10-12 11:55 PM **Subject:** Re: Farm Equipment

Hi Frank
I'll send anything along that I see in regards to farm equipment. I did read that David Greig of John Fowler and Co. (Leeds) visited the farm in 1883 but didn't convince the Major to buy any of his steam ploughs. The Sykes farm did. And that same year Major Bell felt the Americans made the best farm equipment (Deering of Chicago) but put in an order for Canadian made binders by 1884 when the prices became more competitive. I'll keep an eye out for more detailed information. Michelle

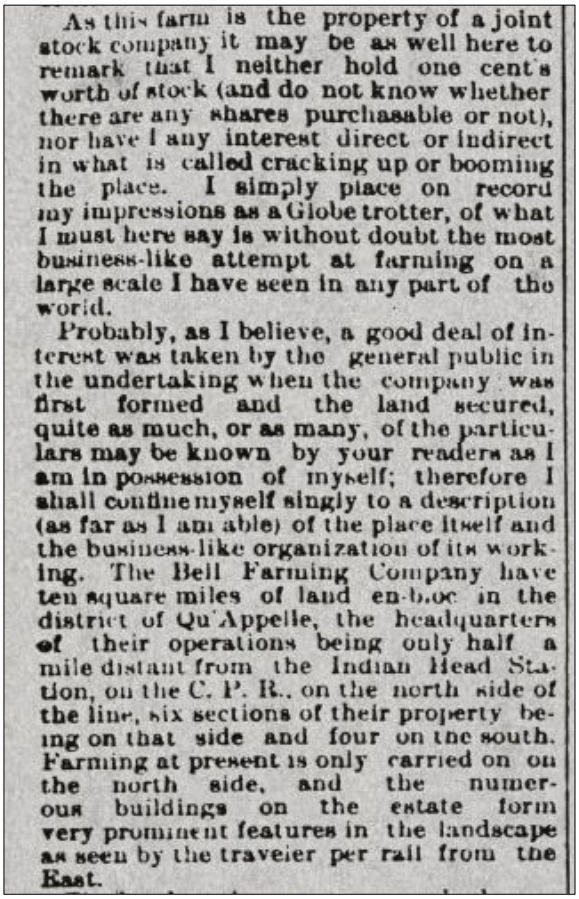
1883 – June 25 – *Winnipeg Free Press*: A Gigantic Farm – the Rambler was Richard Waugh (1832-1908)



A GIGANTIC FARM.

How Operations are Carried on by the Qu'Appelle Farming Company.

BROADVIEW, June 21, 1883. — "You should visit the Bell Farm," had been said to me so many times that the other day, when invited by a friend to accompany him to the place, I at once accepted the invitation and it is only fair to say that I went full of prejudices and misgivings—for in my various wanderings I have seen so many so-called "Model Farms," and in almost every case have found them merely interesting playthings, that I did not expect to see anything calculated to cause me to take any deep interest in the place. I fully thought that I should see a lot of experimental "Gim Cracks," and meet with a manager full to the brim of theoretical "Mechian" ideas of model farming, but, as instead of all this I found a real farm, with the work carried on in a real farming workmanlike manner, with every attention paid to every money-making and money-saving detail attended to. Perhaps a few particulars as to this undertaking may not be uninteresting to your readers—more particularly as undoubtedly now it is the farm of the Northwest for where else could 4,000 acres in one block be seen under cultivation in this territory; and if the cherished dream of the enterprising manager is realized he will have in 1887 30,000 acres of wheat growing in one huge field, and so make Indian Head one, or rather, perhaps, the great show place of Assiniboia, if not of the Dominion of Canada.



As this farm is the property of a joint stock company it may be as well here to remark that I neither hold one cent's worth of stock (and do not know whether there are any shares purchasable or not), nor have I any interest direct or indirect in what is called cracking up or booming the place. I simply place on record my impressions as a Globe trotter, of what I must here say is without doubt the most business-like attempt at farming on a large scale I have seen in any part of the world.

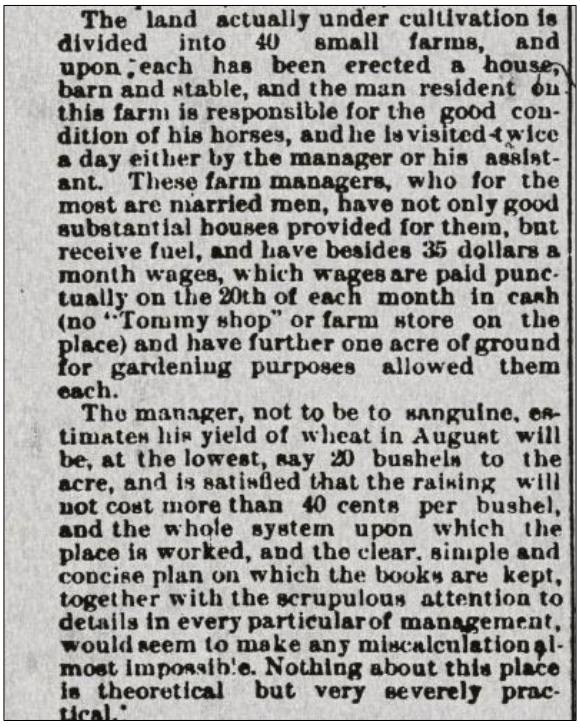
Probably, as I believe, a good deal of interest was taken by the general public in the undertaking when the company was first formed and the land secured, quite as much, or as many, of the particulars may be known by your readers as I am in possession of myself; therefore I shall confine myself singly to a description (as far as I am able) of the place itself and the business-like organization of its working. The Bell Farming Company have ten square miles of land en-bloc in the district of Qu'Appelle, the headquarters of their operations being only half a mile distant from the Indian Head Station, on the C. P. R., on the north side of the line, six sections of their property being on that side and four on the south. Farming at present is only carried on on the north side, and the numerous buildings on the estate form very prominent features in the landscape as seen by the traveler per rail from the East.

Part 1 (164kb) Part 2 (199 kb)

The head station, or manager's home, the residence of Major Bell, is approached from the railway depot through an avenue of young poplar trees, which were brought some distance from the Qu'Appelle Bluffs last fall, and have done extremely well, all having a very healthy appearance—a very interesting experiment in foresting by the way—this avenue is altogether two miles in length, and the trees are planted something like twelve feet apart. The house itself is a very substantial structure of stone—stones too in the rough, just as gathered off the land in the neighborhood, and although the house is roomy, commodious and comfortable in every respect, yet it is utterly devoid of any ornamentation; it is, in fact a plain respectable looking farm house of a severely simple style of architecture, with a lawn in front and kitchen garden behind.

Now for farm particulars: 2,800 acres were broken last fall by contract, and the rest very early this year with the company's own teams. Seeding was done at the rate of 400 acres per day and commenced on the ninth of April. There are now 4,000 acres under crop all at present looking extremely well. 1,700 acres are in wheat, 10 in potatoes, and the remainder oats barley and beans. The manager fully expects to have under crop next year from 6,000 to 7,000 acres, and breaking is now going on at the rate of 100 acres daily. The working plant on the farm at present consists of 36 waggons, 8 hand ploughs, 33 sulkies, 22 double gang ploughs, 115 horses, besides harrows, etc., etc. No backsetting has been done on the farm, as Major Bell's experience in Minnesota has told him that good harrowing is enough for the character of land worked. At present there are employed on the farm 93 men—73 being labourers, and 20 mechanics carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.

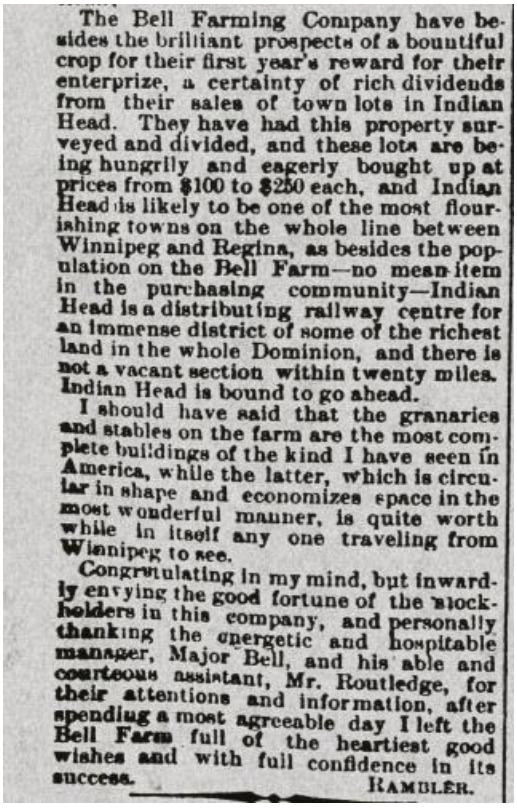
Part 3 (178 kb)



The land actually under cultivation is divided into 40 small farms, and upon each has been erected a house, barn and stable, and the man resident on this farm is responsible for the good condition of his horses, and he is visited twice a day either by the manager or his assistant. These farm managers, who for the most are married men, have not only good substantial houses provided for them, but receive fuel, and have besides 35 dollars a month wages, which wages are paid punctually on the 20th of each month in cash (no "Tommy shop" or farm store on the place) and have further one acre of ground for gardening purposes allowed them each.

The manager, not to be to sanguine, estimates his yield of wheat in August will be, at the lowest, say 20 bushels to the acre, and is satisfied that the raising will not cost more than 40 cents per bushel, and the whole system upon which the place is worked, and the clear, simple and concise plan on which the books are kept, together with the scrupulous attention to details in every particular of management, would seem to make any miscalculation almost impossible. Nothing about this place is theoretical but very severely practical."

Part 4 (237 kb)



The Bell Farming Company have besides the brilliant prospects of a bountiful crop for their first year's reward for their enterprize, a certainty of rich dividends from their sales of town lots in Indian Head. They have had this property surveyed and divided, and these lots are being hungrily and eagerly bought up at prices from $100 to $250 each, and Indian Head is likely to be one of the most flourishing towns on the whole line between Winnipeg and Regina, as besides the population on the Bell Farm—no mean item in the purchasing community—Indian Head is a distributing railway centre for an immense district of some of the richest land in the whole Dominion, and there is not a vacant section within twenty miles. Indian Head is bound to go ahead.

I should have said that the granaries and stables on the farm are the most complete buildings of the kind I have seen in America, while the latter, which is circular in shape and economizes space in the most wonderful manner, is quite worth while in itself any one traveling from Winnipeg to see.

Congratulating in my mind, but inwardly envying the good fortune of the stockholders in this company, and personally thanking the energetic and hospitable manager, Major Bell, and his able and courteous assistant, Mr. Routledge, for their attentions and information, after spending a most agreeable day I left the Bell Farm full of the heartiest good wishes and with full confidence in its success.

RAMBLER.

Part 5 (199 kb)

1883 – June 28 – Brooks mentions that Major Bell owns the Indian Head townsite

> "I will remain here, as there is a first class opening here ere and I know I can do well. Bell has the townsite and some first class buildings are going up. . . . "

1883 – June – no exact date – William and Mary Thomson arrive from Scotland to work on Bell Farm

> "William Thomson . . . came to Canada in the spring of 1883 . . . [and worked near Grenfell]. Mrs. [Mary Jane] Thomson with three children and her sister Agnes [Scott] arrived from Scotland in June of that year, and Mr. Thomson got work on the Bell farm at Indian Head, and took his family there, where they lived in one of the cottages built for the hired help. . . . Mary was born in Indian Head on May 5, 1885." (Source: Laura Black, family history, p. 1. In an Interview with Helen Morrison, Jan. 7, 2020, Laura also mentioned that her grandmother - Mary Jane [Scott] Thomson - worked as a dairy maid on the Bell Farm.)

1883 – June 3 – Letter from Dewdney to Macdonald – brickmaking at Indian Head & Regina

> "Brick is bring made at Indian Head & yards are expected to be started here shortly."

1883 – June 21 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Major Bell, Archie Macdonald and Capt. French to Qu'Appelle district

> "**LOCAL.** Mr. Archie Macdonald, Captain French and Major Bell are out for the Qu'Appelle district."

1883 – July 5 – *Regina Leader,* p. 3 – Major Bell appointed Justice of the Peace

1883 – July 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4– "Indian Head" – Dominion Day and Brick Yard operation details

> Article mentions the following people who were entertained by Major and Katherine Bell – to be added to the Bell Farm Visitors list:
>
> - Rev. Mr. Cooper
> - Mr. Perley, Wolseley
> - Mrs. Macdonald, Fort Qu'Appelle
> - Mrs. Brown, Fort Qu'Appelle
> - Dr. Dodd, Broadview

INDIAN HEAD.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

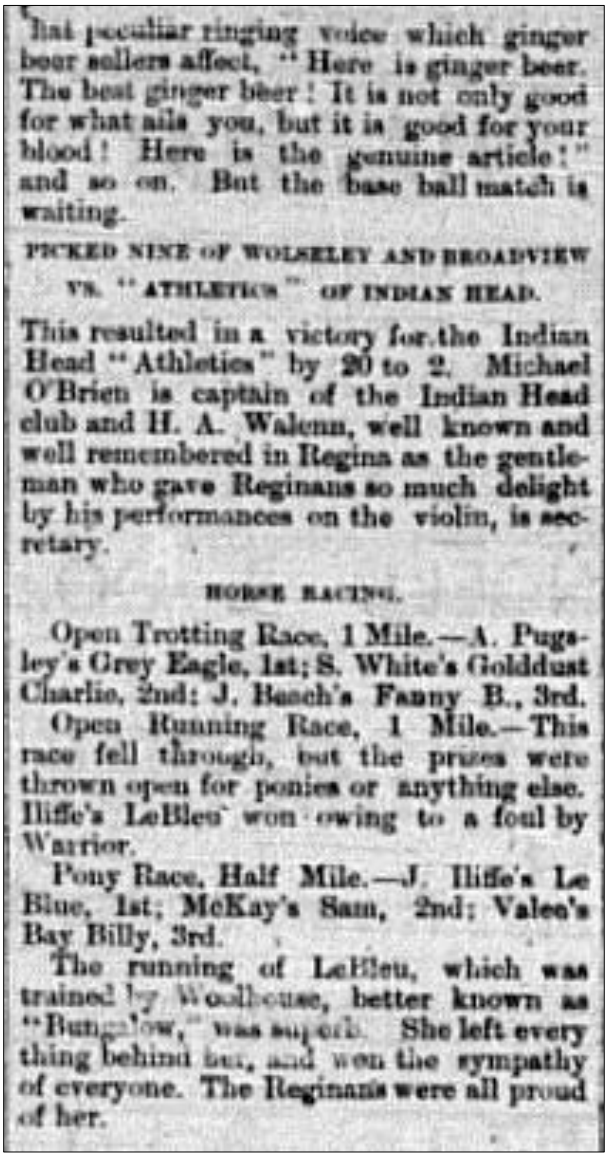
INDIAN HEAD, July 3.—Posters printed unpatriotically in Winnipeg, instead of having been printed in our own Province, told the world of Assiniboia that a grand celebration of Dominion day would take place at Indian Head, on Monday, July 2nd, when prizes, ranging from $80 downwards would be given. Special arrangements had been made with the C. P. R. to and from all stations at a fare and a third, and in addition to the sports those who arrived early would have an opportunity of viewing the Bell Farm and see the largest field of wheat in the Territories.

Indian Head surprised me. I expected to see a few tents. It is a growing town with fine substantial buildings. A very large hotel is in course of erection larger than any west of Brandon at present. The present hotel—the Commercial—is an excellent hostelery, a credit to the place. There is excellent clay for brick near and a large brick yard is in full blast whose owners have already sold 200,000 brick at $20 a thousand. Colonel Macdonald is building here. The Bell Farm is simply a splendid thing for the country. If any injustice was done to the squatters it was by the Government, not by Major Bell, who, as the agent of a company to whom the Government had sold certain lands had only one course open to him. The Bell Farm Company have planted a row of poplars on each side of the road to Fort Qu'Appelle for a mile. These trees have "taken" and make a fine avenue. The house of Major Bell is a large stone building, substantial and well designed. Here a few friends were entertained at luncheon amongst whom were the Rev. Mr. Cooper, Mr. Perley, of Wolseley, Mrs. Macdonald and Mrs. Brown, of Fort Qu'Appelle, Dr. Dodd, of Broadview, and your correspondent. Here, Mrs. Bell dispenses the hospitalities in a manner which makes good things better. While lunch was preparing we visited the stable, a round structure built of stone taken off the farm. Outside it looks like a round house. Inside it is a large, comfortable, airy stable, horses stalled for the most part facing outward against the circular wall; above, grain and hay, which are let down in a scientific manner. The garden, the corral, and above all, the 1200 acre field of wheat, did one good to see. Despite the dry weather this wheat looked well. Lunch over, we drove behind a pair of bloods—splendid goers, an all day team—and were on the grounds in time for the

BASE BALL MATCH.

An immense crowd was now on the grounds, contingents having come from Regina, Fort Qu'Appelle, Broadview, Grenfell and Wolseley. Dr. Dodd was among those who came from Broadview, and better base ball playing he said he never saw. Mr. G. L. Dodds, Mr. Perley, Mr. Blanchard, and others, arrived from Wolseley, and Mr. Mann and his friends from Grenfell. Among those who came from Regina were Mr. Harman, of the Merchants' Bank, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Gordon, Col. Irvin, who had run down with Mr. Gordon from Qu'Appelle, Mr. J. H. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Daniels. Carriages filled with elegantly dressed ladies were early on the ground. Tents for the sale of ginger beer and lemonade were erected east of the race track—a circular half mile, plowed by Major Bell, and unsodded by the citizens—and nearly facing the grand stand, which was inside the circle on its eastern arc. From these tents came the cry in

Part 1 of 4 Part 2 of 4



hat peculiar ringing voice which ginger beer sellers affect, "Here is ginger beer. The best ginger beer! It is not only good for what ails you, but it is good for your blood! Here is the genuine article!" and so on. But the base ball match is waiting.

PICKED NINE OF WOLSELEY AND BROADVIEW VS. "ATHLETICS" OF INDIAN HEAD.

This resulted in a victory for the Indian Head "Athletics" by 20 to 2. Michael O'Brien is captain of the Indian Head club and H. A. Walenn, well known and well remembered in Regina as the gentleman who gave Reginans so much delight by his performances on the violin, is secretary.

HORSE RACING.

Open Trotting Race, 1 Mile.—A. Pugsley's Grey Eagle, 1st; S. White's Golddust Charlie, 2nd; J. Basch's Fanny B., 3rd.

Open Running Race, 1 Mile.—This race fell through, but the prizes were thrown open for ponies or anything else. Iliffe's LeBleu won owing to a foul by Warrior.

Pony Race, Half Mile.—J. Iliffe's Le Blue, 1st; McKay's Sam, 2nd; Valee's Bay Billy, 3rd.

The running of LeBleu, which was trained by Woolhouse, better known as "Bungalow," was superb. She left everything behind her, and won the sympathy of everyone. The Reginans were all proud of her.

Part 3 of 4

GENERAL SPORTS.

Running Hop, Step and Jump.—Cathcart- 1st; Featherstone, 2nd; McKellar, 3rd.

Half Mile Dash.—Asham (an Indian), 1st; Fellows, 2nd; Lasiross, 3rd.

Hurdle Race, 220 yards, 9 hurdles.—Fisher, 1st; Carson, 2nd; Fellows, 3rd.

Running Long Jump.—Fisher, 1st; Fellows, 2nd; Plaxton, 3rd.

100 yard Dash.—Fisher, 1st; Patterson, 2nd.

Squaw Race.—Mrs. Lasiross, 1st.

Running High Jump.—Cathcart, 1st; Fellows, 2nd.

Quarter Mile Race.—Asham (an Indian), 1st; Fellows, 2nd; Spear, 3rd.

Indian Race, 1 Mile.—Asham, 1st.

Putting the Weight.—Galbraith, 1st; McQuaig, 2nd; Cameron, 3rd.

Standing Jump.—Fellows, 1st; Plaxton, 2nd.

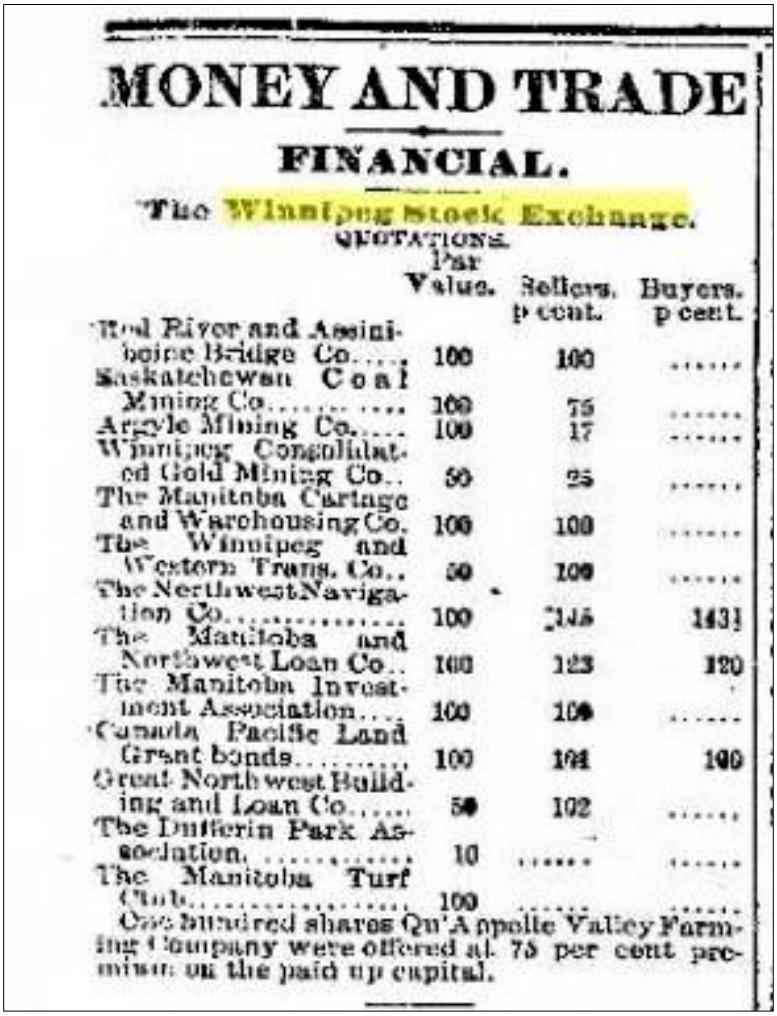
Championship of Assiniboia, 1 Mile, open to all residents of the District, pure Indians excepted.—Hawkins, 1st; Carson, 2nd; Boudjimnn, 3rd.

Tug of War, employees of the Bell Farm vs. Town Team.—The Bell Farm won. The second tug was very exciting because the citizens seemed likely to retrieve their laurels. Mr. Routledge captained the Bell Farm team in good style,

Part 4 of 4

1883 – July 6 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 7 – Winnipeg Stock Exchange – first entry for Qu'Appelle Valley Framing Company (Bell Farm).

"One Hundred shares Qu'Appelle Valley Framing Company were offered at 75 per cent premium on the paid up capital."



MONEY AND TRADE

FINANCIAL.

The Winnipeg Stock Exchange.

QUOTATIONS.

	Par Value.	Sellers. p cent.	Buyers. p cent.
Red River and Assiniboine Bridge Co....	100	100	.....
Saskatchewan Coal Mining Co.....	100	75	.....
Argyle Mining Co.....	100	17	.....
Winnipeg Consolidated Gold Mining Co..	50	25	.....
The Manitoba Cartage and Warehousing Co.	100	100	.....
The Winnipeg and Western Trans. Co..	50	100	.....
The NorthwestNavigation Co.....	100	145	143
The Manitoba and Northwest Loan Co..	100	123	120
The Manitoba Investment Association....	100	100	.....
Canada Pacific Land Grant bonds.....	100	101	100
Great Northwest Building and Loan Co.....	50	102	.....
The Dufferin Park Association.	10	.....	.....
The Manitoba Turf Club.....	100	.....	.....

One hundred shares Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company were offered at 75 per cent premium on the paid up capital.

1883 – July 7 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 9 – Major Bell running in NWT Council election

"QU'APPELLE DISTRICT. The candidates are Major Bell, Mr. Jackson and Mr. McArthur. On Monday evening a very good meeting was held at Indian Head, at which Major Bell, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Davin and Mr. Perley spoke."

1883 – July 9 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Bell among NW Council election candidates

"**NORTHWEST COUNCIL – The Names of Candidates in the Field.** There are three elections yet to be held for the purpose of electing representatives to the Northwest Council, which meets in Regina August 29 (20?). The following is the list: Broadview District. . . . . Qu'Appelle District -The candidates here are Major Bell, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. McArthur. Regina District . . . . ."

1883 – July 11 – Letter Dewdney to Macdonald – Bell vs Jackson election report

"... Jackson is running for N.W. Council - - Bell of the Bell Farm opposing him. It will be a tight contest & I fear the squatting element will be against Bell. I have written Sir Hector to ask him to write Archbishop Taché to support Bell. The Half Breed vote will be a very strong one."

1883 – July 11 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 3 – Bell speaks during candidates debate for NWT election

NORTHWEST ELECTIONS.

The Contest at Qu'Appelle—Meeting at Ka-tep-we.

[Special Correspondence of the Sun.]

FORT QU'APPELLE, July 9.—By seven o'clock on Saturday, the 7th inst., quite a goodly assembly of the electors of Qu'Appelle district took place on the shady side of a store in the village of "Ka-tep-we," which is situated at the foot of the Qu'Appelle lakes. The attendance of the half-breeds of the valley was especially large. It may be mentioned that the half-breed vote in the coming election will be a most important factor.

The candidates, Mr. McArthur, Major Bell and Mr. Jackson, were present and severally addressed the meeting. Mr. Lauder occupied the chair. Mr. McArthur spoke first, and in a few hesitating and lame words informed the meeting that he had retired in favor of Major Bell. During the day rumor had it that such an event was on the tapis, yet the public announcement took many by surprise, McArthur having been specially chosen by the squatters on the Bell farm (more correctly the Qu'Appelle Valley farm) to oppose Major Bell, who is the manager of the farm. At the conclusion of McArthur's weak remarks—he must have passed a "mauraise quart d'heure"—as many were the cries of "turncoat," "renegade," &c., that accompanied him to his seat.

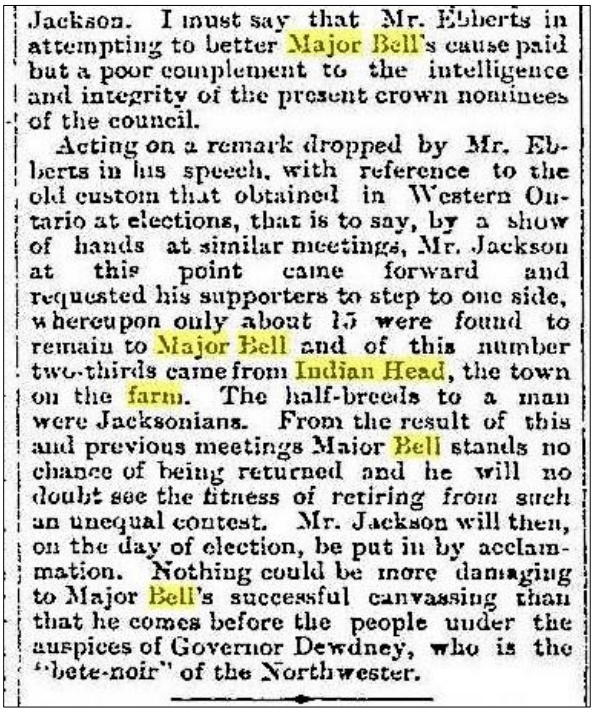
We next had Major Bell. This gentleman may be a very good man in his way, but he certainly is not a success as a public speaker. Notwithstanding his copious notes, his speech was very bald, and was remarked only for what he did not say.

Mr. Jackson followed. Now, Mr. Jackson *is* a good speaker. All the points that his opponent, Major Bell, had apparently feared to tackle, he boldly seized and gave his views thereon to the satisfaction of the meeting. Accusations that his opponent and friends had made he refuted, and in some instances caused to rebound on their heads. That he carried the feeling of the meeting with him was evident from the outset.

A Mr. Ebberts was then invited to say something. This gentleman is the secretary of the company of which his friend Major Bell is the managing director. Mr. Ebberts spoke well and at length in favor of the candidate Bell. In the course of the speech many passages of arms took place between himself and Jackson on questions imported unnecessarily into the matter, and foreign to the points at issue. Mr. Ebberts also, unfortunately for him, made use of the argument that as Mr. Jackson was not a friend of Governor Dewdney, he would, were he returned, prove of no use to the district as a representative at the council. This was unwise, as it inferred that the council as it is now composed is but a huge ring, with Gov. Dewdney as ringmaster.

This point allowed Mr. Perley, who spoke next, to strike a telling blow to the detriment of the Bell party. He said that no argument could be weaker, as it was universally acknowledged that nothing was more beneficial to the legislative bodies, than a "healthy opposition," whereby things were kept at better level. Mr. Perley comes from Wolseley, and wound up an uncommonly good speech by stating that every voter from his district would plump for Jackson. I must say that Mr. Ebberts in

Part 1 of 3: 200 kb Part 2 of 3: 212 kb



Jackson. I must say that Mr. Ebberts in attempting to better Major Bell's cause paid but a poor complement to the intelligence and integrity of the present crown nominees of the council.

Acting on a remark dropped by Mr. Eberts in his speech, with reference to the old custom that obtained in Western Ontario at elections, that is to say, by a show of hands at similar meetings, Mr. Jackson at this point came forward and requested his supporters to step to one side, whereupon only about 15 were found to remain to Major Bell and of this number two-thirds came from Indian Head, the town on the farm. The half-breeds to a man were Jacksonians. From the result of this and previous meetings Major Bell stands no chance of being returned and he will no doubt see the fitness of retiring from such an unequal contest. Mr. Jackson will then, on the day of election, be put in by acclamation. Nothing could be more damaging to Major Bell's successful canvassing than that he comes before the people under the auspices of Governor Dewdney, who is the "bete-noir" of the Northwester.

Part 3 of 3: 166 kb

1883 – July 12 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Spaniels at the Bell Farm

"LOCAL: Major Bell has a fine kennel of spaniels."

1883 – July 19 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Bell Farm visitors: "A Winnipeg Party"

"**A WINNIPEG PARTY.** In the elegantly equipped palace car "Assiniboine," of the C.P.R., a merry party of Winnipeggers made a trip over the Western division of the road last week. The party consisted of Capt. and Mrs. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Eden, Mr. and Miss C.J. Brydges, Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Brydges, Mr. Sedley Blanchard, Miss Blanchard and Misses Jane and Maud Blanchard, Miss Hurd, and Messrs. Rice, Howard, W.F. Blanchard, J.H.R. Wainwright, Wm. Allan, Everts and Power. They stopped a short time at Indian Head to inspect the Bell Farm, in which some of the parties are directors. From thence they went to Moosejaw and returned to Regina on Sunday morning, where they spent the day. The day was anything but desirable for the excursionists to get a good view of our embryo city, but not withstanding the unauspicious weather many of them did considerable driving about. Government House was visited during the day. They left for the metropolis at 11 p.m."

1883 – July 19 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* – p, 5 – "The Bell Farm: Farming on a Large Scale" - based on a visit by the reporter on Saturday, 14 July, 1883. [first mention of "summer fallow" – part 5 of 6 below]

THE BELL FARM.

How Farming on a Large Scale is Carried on.

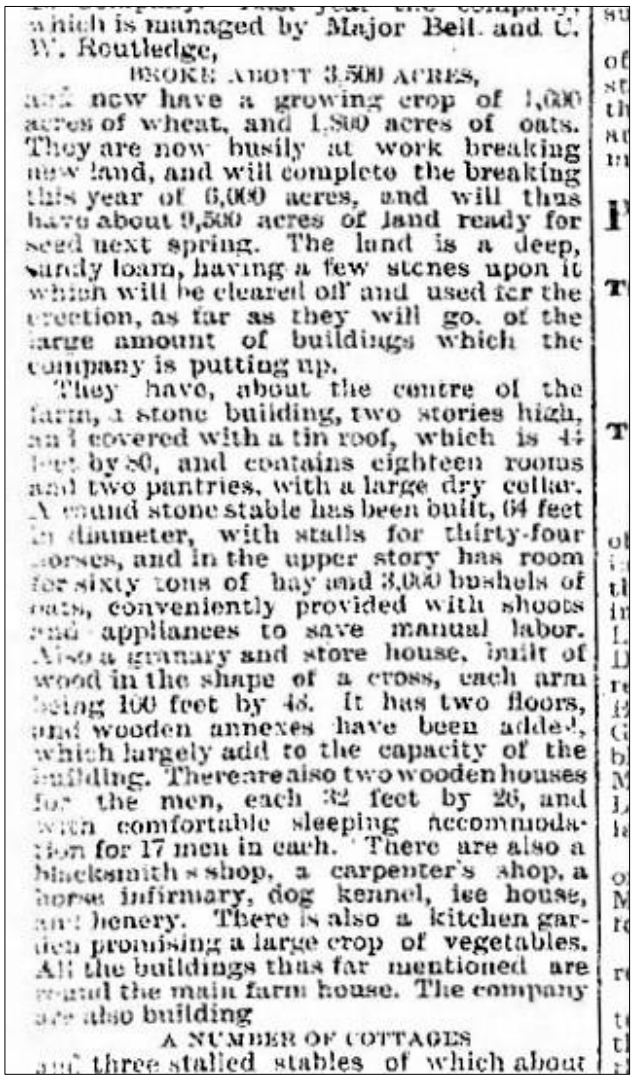
Some Interesting Notes About the Biggest Farm in Canada.

A correspondent sends us the following account of a visit to the Bell Farm at Indian Head, which will no doubt prove of much interest to our readers:

On Saturday last I had an opportunity of visiting the farm and spent the day in driving over it and inspecting the various operations in progress. It is situated in Townships 18 and 19 in Ranges 12, 13 and 14 west of the second principal meridian. It is about ten miles square and contains in all 56,800 acres. The school sections, two or three Hudson Bay sections, and the land occupied by three settlers, are within the square of ten miles—all the rest belong to the Bell Farming Co. The farm is owned by a company which has a capital of $800,000, of which $100,000 has been issued in paid up stock, and the balance held in Canada and England and upon which 35 per cent has been already called up.

The various squatters who had camped upon parts of this farm have all been settled with, except in one case. The land was purchased from the Government at $1.25 an acre; from the C. P. R. Co. at their old rate of $2.50 per acre with a rebate of one half for all land broken (except within the mile belt, for which $6.00 an acre was charged), and a few sections from the H. B. Company. Last year the company, which is managed by Major Bell and C. W. Routledge,

BROKE ABOUT 3,500 ACRES,



which is managed by Major Bell and C. W. Routledge,

BROKE ABOUT 3,500 ACRES,

and now have a growing crop of 1,000 acres of wheat, and 1,800 acres of oats. They are now busily at work breaking new land, and will complete the breaking this year of 6,000 acres, and will thus have about 9,500 acres of land ready for seed next spring. The land is a deep, sandy loam, having a few stones upon it which will be cleared off and used for the erection, as far as they will go, of the large amount of buildings which the company is putting up.

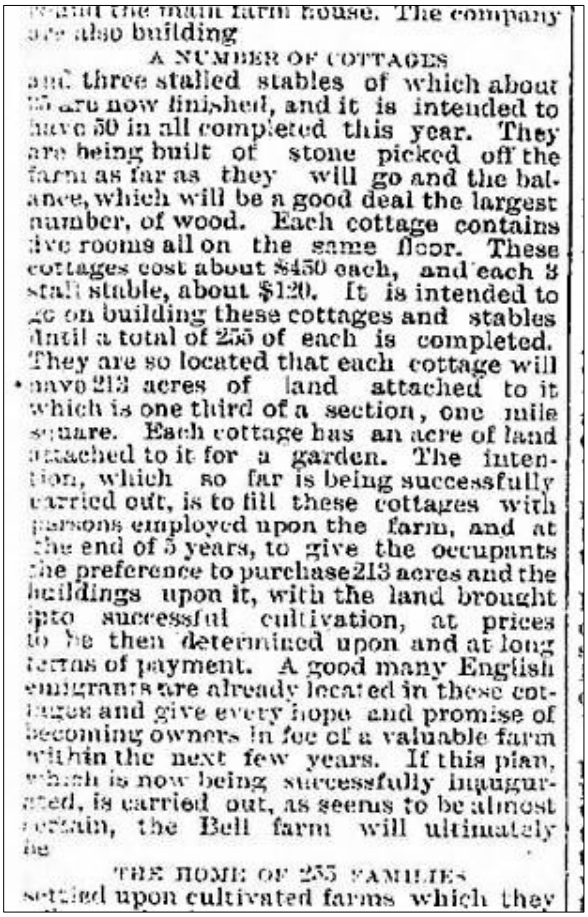
They have, about the centre of the farm, a stone building, two stories high, and covered with a tin roof, which is 44 feet by 80, and contains eighteen rooms and two pantries, with a large dry cellar. A round stone stable has been built, 64 feet in diameter, with stalls for thirty-four horses, and in the upper story has room for sixty tons of hay and 3,000 bushels of oats, conveniently provided with shoots and appliances to save manual labor. Also a granary and store house, built of wood in the shape of a cross, each arm being 100 feet by 48. It has two floors, and wooden annexes have been added, which largely add to the capacity of the building. There are also two wooden houses for the men, each 32 feet by 26, and with comfortable sleeping accommodation for 17 men in each. There are also a blacksmith's shop, a carpenter's shop, a horse infirmary, dog kennel, ice house, and henery. There is also a kitchen garden promising a large crop of vegetables. All the buildings thus far mentioned are round the main farm house. The company are also building

A NUMBER OF COTTAGES

and three stalled stables of which about

Part 1 of 6: 119 kb

Part 2 of 6: 135 kb



around the main farm house. The company are also building

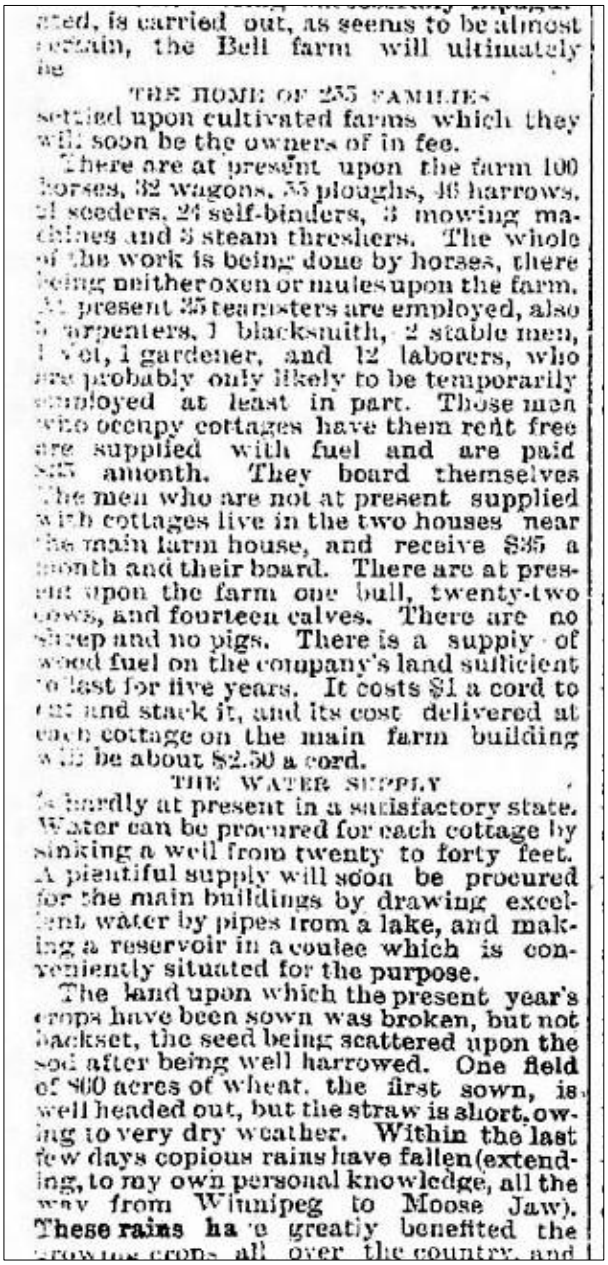
A NUMBER OF COTTAGES

and three stalled stables of which about 25 are now finished, and it is intended to have 50 in all completed this year. They are being built of stone picked off the farm as far as they will go and the balance, which will be a good deal the largest number, of wood. Each cottage contains five rooms all on the same floor. These cottages cost about $450 each, and each 3 stall stable, about $120. It is intended to go on building these cottages and stables until a total of 255 of each is completed. They are so located that each cottage will have 213 acres of land attached to it which is one third of a section, one mile square. Each cottage has an acre of land attached to it for a garden. The intention, which so far is being successfully carried out, is to fill these cottages with persons employed upon the farm, and at the end of 5 years, to give the occupants the preference to purchase 213 acres and the buildings upon it, with the land brought into successful cultivation, at prices to be then determined upon and at long terms of payment. A good many English emigrants are already located in these cottages and give every hope and promise of becoming owners in fee of a valuable farm within the next few years. If this plan, which is now being successfully inaugurated, is carried out, as seems to be almost certain, the Bell farm will ultimately be

THE HOME OF 255 FAMILIES

settled upon cultivated farms which they

Part 3 of 6: 137 kb



ated, is carried out, as seems to be almost certain, the Bell farm will ultimately be

THE HOME OF 255 FAMILIES

settled upon cultivated farms which they will soon be the owners of in fee.

There are at present upon the farm 100 horses, 32 wagons, 35 ploughs, 46 harrows, 21 seeders, 24 self-binders, 3 mowing machines and 3 steam threshers. The whole of the work is being done by horses, there being neither oxen or mules upon the farm. At present 25 teamsters are employed, also 5 carpenters, 1 blacksmith, 2 stable men, 1 vet, 1 gardener, and 12 laborers, who are probably only likely to be temporarily employed at least in part. Those men who occupy cottages have them rent free are supplied with fuel and are paid $25 a month. They board themselves The men who are not at present supplied with cottages live in the two houses near the main farm house, and receive $35 a month and their board. There are at present upon the farm one bull, twenty-two cows, and fourteen calves. There are no sheep and no pigs. There is a supply of wood fuel on the company's land sufficient to last for five years. It costs $1 a cord to cut and stack it, and its cost delivered at each cottage on the main farm building will be about $2.50 a cord.

THE WATER SUPPLY

is hardly at present in a satisfactory state. Water can be procured for each cottage by sinking a well from twenty to forty feet. A plentiful supply will soon be procured for the main buildings by drawing excellent water by pipes from a lake, and making a reservoir in a coulee which is conveniently situated for the purpose.

The land upon which the present year's crops have been sown was broken, but not backset, the seed being scattered upon the soil after being well harrowed. One field of 800 acres of wheat, the first sown, is well headed out, but the straw is short, owing to very dry weather. Within the last few days copious rains have fallen (extending, to my own personal knowledge, all the way from Winnipeg to Moose Jaw). These rains have greatly benefitted the growing crops all over the country, and

Part 4 of 6: 167 kb

way from Winnipeg to Moose Jaw). These rains have greatly benefitted the growing crops all over the country, and from accurate measurement the 800 acre field in the Bell farm showed a gain growth of upwards of one inch and a half within 24 hours after the rain had ceased to fall. I have a sample of wheat growing near Virden, which was pulled on Saturday last, and measures upwards of three feet in height and well headed out.

THE 1600 ACRES OF WHEAT

on the Bell farm sown on ground which which was broken but not backset, will, from present appearances yield an average of fully 20 bushels to the acre, two bushels were sown to each acre. It is believed that after being plowed this fall the yield of next years crop will be considerably larger. All the oats growing this year will be required for the use of the farm. The 32,000 bushels of wheat expected to be garnered this year will be required for seeding for next year and the balance sold to surrounding settlers for seed.

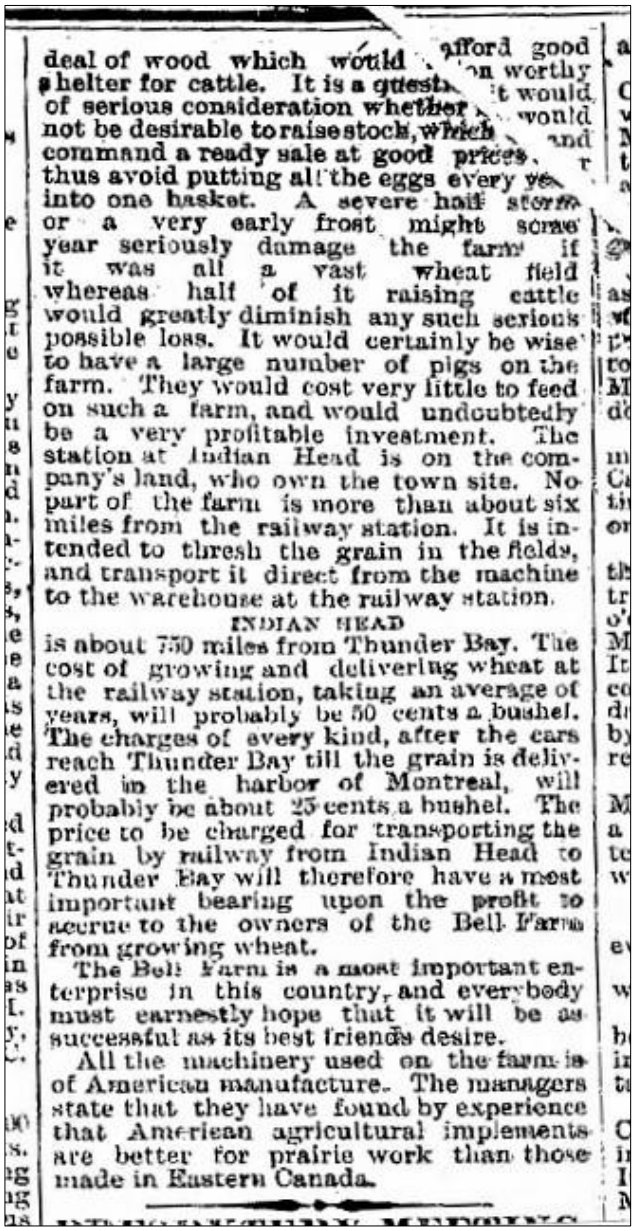
There is no prospect of any wheat being exported from any point outside of Manitoba this year, but from the very large area of land now being brought under cultivation there ought to be a very considerable quantity of wheat to send away next year along the line of the C. P. R. between the second and third principal meridians. It is the intention of the Bell Farming Company to let one third of their land lie fallow every year, after a certain lapse of time, so as not to unduly exhaust the soil. The company will have spent by the end of this year

ABOUT $250,000

and if they carry out all the plans described in this paper, they will have expended four or five years hence $500,000 for which they will have about 50,000 acres of land under cultivation, capable of division into 235 farms of 213 acres each, all supplied with buildings.

At the west end of the farm the county becomes rather rolling and has a good

Part 5 of 6: - summer fallow 166 kb



deal of wood which would afford good shelter for cattle. It is a question worthy of serious consideration whether it would not be desirable to raise stock, which would command a ready sale at good prices, and thus avoid putting all the eggs every year into one basket. A severe hail storm or a very early frost might some year seriously damage the farm if it was all a vast wheat field whereas half of it raising cattle would greatly diminish any such serious possible loss. It would certainly be wise to have a large number of pigs on the farm. They would cost very little to feed on such a farm, and would undoubtedly be a very profitable investment. The station at Indian Head is on the company's land, who own the town site. No part of the farm is more than about six miles from the railway station. It is intended to thresh the grain in the fields, and transport it direct from the machine to the warehouse at the railway station.

INDIAN HEAD

is about 750 miles from Thunder Bay. The cost of growing and delivering wheat at the railway station, taking an average of years, will probably be 50 cents a bushel. The charges of every kind, after the cars reach Thunder Bay till the grain is delivered in the harbor of Montreal, will probably be about 25 cents a bushel. The price to be charged for transporting the grain by railway from Indian Head to Thunder Bay will therefore have a most important bearing upon the profit to accrue to the owners of the Bell Farm from growing wheat.

The Bell Farm is a most important enterprise in this country, and everybody must earnestly hope that it will be as successful as its best friends desire.

All the machinery used on the farm is of American manufacture. The managers state that they have found by experience that American agricultural implements are better for prairie work than those made in Eastern Canada.

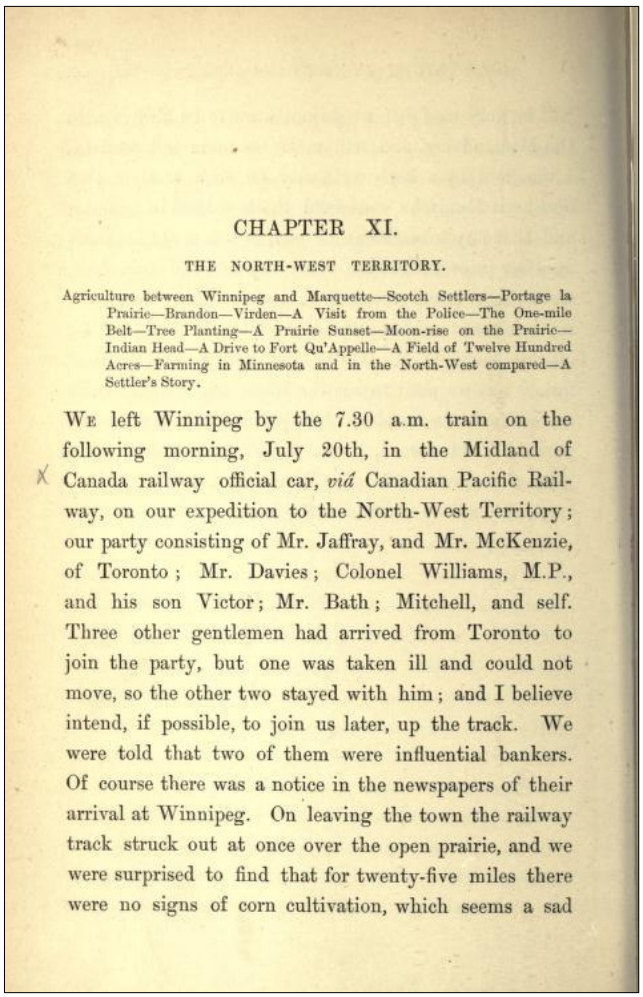
Part 6 of 6: 167 kb

1883 – July 20 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 3 – Comment from E.B. Osler on the Bell Farm and the potential for farming in the West.

> "**FUTURE OF THE NORTHWEST. . . . .** E.B. Osler, one of the managing directors [of the C.P.R.] in Canada, said: . . . . A gentleman who returned from the Northwest a few days before I left Canada, saw on the Bell farm 3,000 acres of wheat the finest he had ever seen. That land eighteen months ago was an unbroken prairie. There were shipped from a railway I have some interest in, last week, or within the last few days, forty reaping machines for that one farm, to be used in harvesting the grain. With capacities such as that, with the men going on as they are going on – the sturdiest and strongest men in the country – with everything in their favour, there must be a great future for the country. (Cheers). . . . . "

1883 – 21 July – *"Life and Labour in the Far, Far West",* by W. Henry Barneby –

During their tour, the following group of men stopped off at the Bell Farm: W.H. Barneby, Mr. R. Jaffray (a director of the Midland of Canada Railway Company) and Mr. Mackenzie of Toronto; Mr. Davies (son-in-law to Mr. Cox, Pres of Midland of Canada Railway); Col. Arthur Trefusis Heneage Williams, M.P. for Port Hope and his son Victor; Mr. Bath; Arthur Mitchell, brother-in-law to Barneby. Includes some new comments about life at the Bell Farm, including reference to the men sleeping on the train, as Major Bell's new hotel was then under construction; also accommodating 105 wagon-horses in a large stable (barn); poor water at the Bell Farm; and being served breakfast by Mrs. Bell.



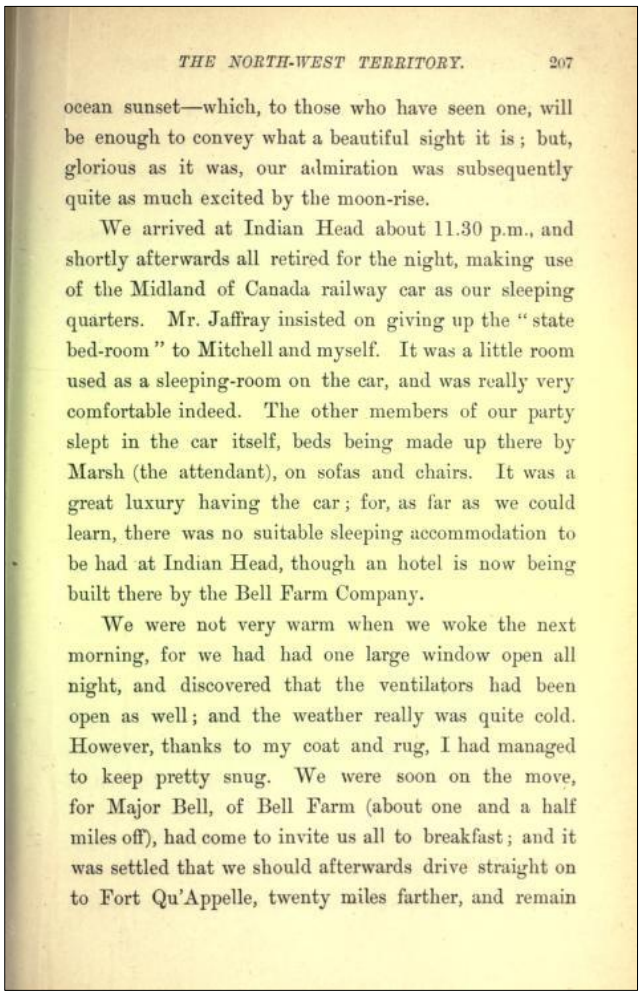
CHAPTER XI.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

Agriculture between Winnipeg and Marquette—Scotch Settlers—Portage la Prairie—Brandon—Virden—A Visit from the Police—The One-mile Belt—Tree Planting—A Prairie Sunset—Moon-rise on the Prairie—Indian Head—A Drive to Fort Qu'Appelle—A Field of Twelve Hundred Acres—Farming in Minnesota and in the North-West compared—A Settler's Story.

We left Winnipeg by the 7.30 a.m. train on the following morning, July 20th, in the Midland of Canada railway official car, *viâ* Canadian Pacific Railway, on our expedition to the North-West Territory; our party consisting of Mr. Jaffray, and Mr. McKenzie, of Toronto; Mr. Davies; Colonel Williams, M.P., and his son Victor; Mr. Bath; Mitchell, and self. Three other gentlemen had arrived from Toronto to join the party, but one was taken ill and could not move, so the other two stayed with him; and I believe intend, if possible, to join us later, up the track. We were told that two of them were influential bankers. Of course there was a notice in the newspapers of their arrival at Winnipeg. On leaving the town the railway track struck out at once over the open prairie, and we were surprised to find that for twenty-five miles there were no signs of corn cultivation, which seems a sad

68 kb



THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY. 207

ocean sunset—which, to those who have seen one, will be enough to convey what a beautiful sight it is; but, glorious as it was, our admiration was subsequently quite as much excited by the moon-rise.

We arrived at Indian Head about 11.30 p.m., and shortly afterwards all retired for the night, making use of the Midland of Canada railway car as our sleeping quarters. Mr. Jaffray insisted on giving up the "state bed-room" to Mitchell and myself. It was a little room used as a sleeping-room on the car, and was really very comfortable indeed. The other members of our party slept in the car itself, beds being made up there by Marsh (the attendant), on sofas and chairs. It was a great luxury having the car; for, as far as we could learn, there was no suitable sleeping accommodation to be had at Indian Head, though an hotel is now being built there by the Bell Farm Company.

We were not very warm when we woke the next morning, for we had had one large window open all night, and discovered that the ventilators had been open as well; and the weather really was quite cold. However, thanks to my coat and rug, I had managed to keep pretty snug. We were soon on the move, for Major Bell, of Bell Farm (about one and a half miles off), had come to invite us all to breakfast; and it was settled that we should afterwards drive straight on to Fort Qu'Appelle, twenty miles farther, and remain

70 kb

there a night. We set off accordingly in two vehicles, and before breakfast went round the farm-buildings, &c. This land belongs to a Company, and Major Bell is the manager. They took up 56,000 acres of open prairie, and commenced operations only a year ago. Major Bell has already a good dwelling-house and out-buildings erected, an avenue of trees planted, and a large stock of implements ready to hand. It is his intention to break up 7,000 acres during the present year. We saw a field of 1,200 acres, two miles long, being ploughed, the team having to traverse that distance before turning. Two trips are made in the morning and two in the evening (feeding-time coming between), so that the horses have to make good time in order to reach the feeding-trough at the proper hour. They plough seventy acres a day, using no steam power, only horses, of which Major Bell must keep a great many, for we saw a stable for waggon-horses built to hold no less than 105; and the loft was large enough to contain 100 tons of hay. The stable was round, and substantially built of stone. We noticed one 1,200-acre field of wheat. We were told again here that harvest would commence towards the end of August.

Major Bell had farmed at one time in Minnesota, but said he preferred the North-West. In drawing a comparison between the land here and that in the Red

77 kb

River Valley, he said that the latter was the best in Canada, and the soil there much deeper and newer than here, and capable of being worked for a long time without manure; but the crops there were about three weeks behind those in this part of the North-West (312 miles west of Winnipeg), though here the soil was much older and harder, and could only be worked for a limited time without artificial assistance. As far as I could judge, I preferred the Red River soil to this; and besides, later in the day, I was given to understand that there is a great difficulty in obtaining a good supply of water at Bell Farm, and that in point of fact a well has been sunk to a great depth there without any successful result.

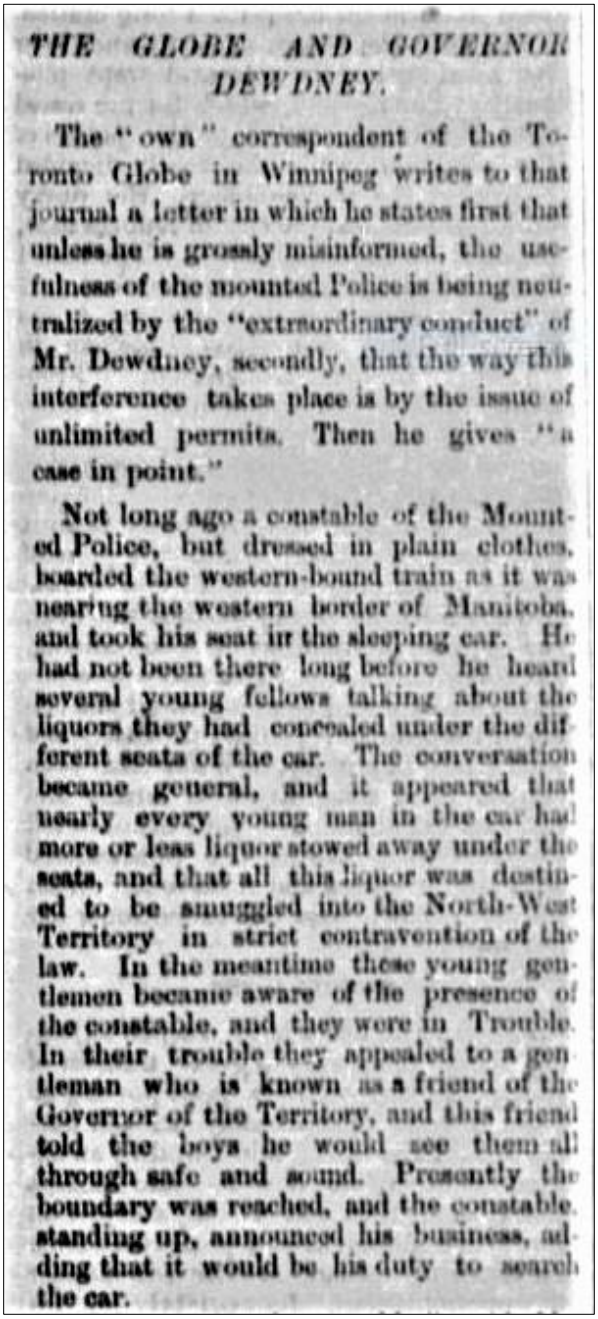
At the time of our visit Mrs. Bell did the honours of a very good breakfast of eggs and bread-and-butter, after which we set off in two waggons (one drawn by mules, the other by horses), for Fort Qu'Appelle; our route being over the open prairie, and for the first five or six miles perfectly flat, then gradually more undulating, until eventually we came to a much more thickly-wooded country, partly covered with brushwood about twelve feet high. I should think it ought to be a capital district for duck and prairie fowl, for there seemed to be a great many small ponds about, and ducks were to be seen on almost all of them.

We stopped to speak to a settler who had come into

o

75 kb

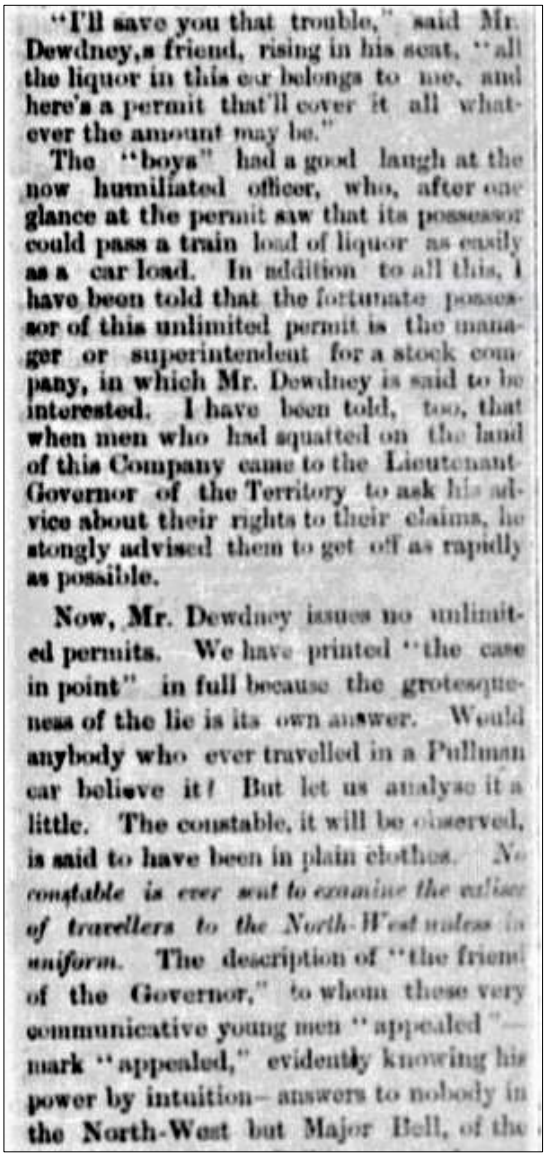
1883 – July 26 – *Regina Leader,* p. 2 – a long anecdote about Dewdney, Bell and Alcohol



THE GLOBE AND GOVERNOR DEWDNEY.

The "own" correspondent of the Toronto Globe in Winnipeg writes to that journal a letter in which he states first that unless he is grossly misinformed, the usefulness of the mounted Police is being neutralized by the "extraordinary conduct" of Mr. Dewdney, secondly, that the way this interference takes place is by the issue of unlimited permits. Then he gives "a case in point."

Not long ago a constable of the Mounted Police, but dressed in plain clothes, boarded the western-bound train as it was nearing the western border of Manitoba, and took his seat in the sleeping car. He had not been there long before he heard several young fellows talking about the liquors they had concealed under the different seats of the car. The conversation became general, and it appeared that nearly every young man in the car had more or less liquor stowed away under the seats, and that all this liquor was destined to be smuggled into the North-West Territory in strict contravention of the law. In the meantime these young gentlemen became aware of the presence of the constable, and they were in Trouble. In their trouble they appealed to a gentleman who is known as a friend of the Governor of the Territory, and this friend told the boys he would see them all through safe and sound. Presently the boundary was reached, and the constable, standing up, announced his business, adding that it would be his duty to search the car.



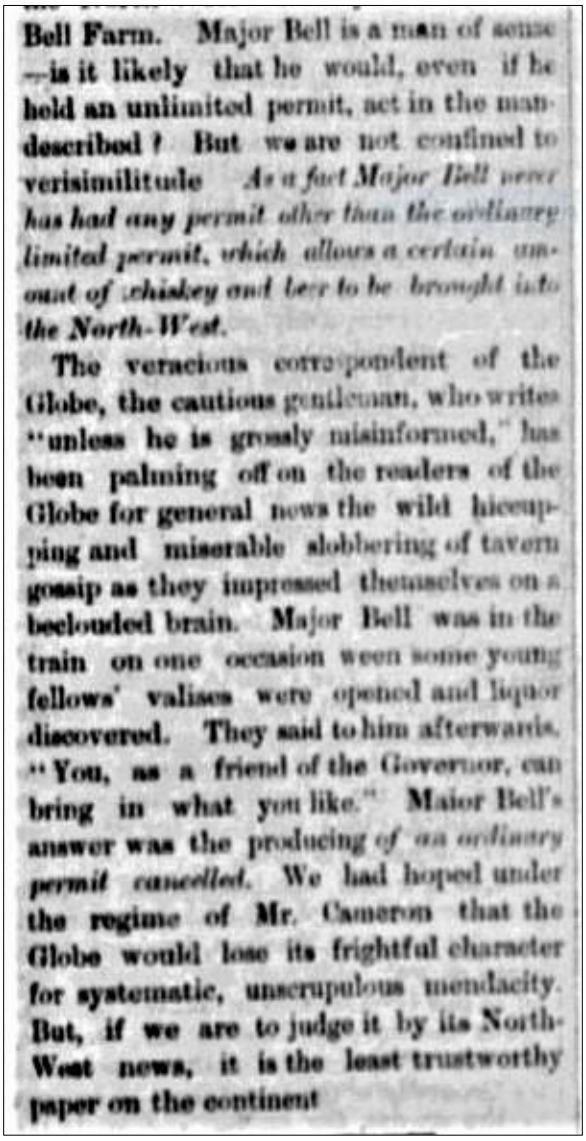
"I'll save you that trouble," said Mr. Dewdney, a friend, rising in his seat, "all the liquor in this car belongs to me, and here's a permit that'll cover it all whatever the amount may be."

The "boys" had a good laugh at the now humiliated officer, who, after one glance at the permit saw that its possessor could pass a train load of liquor as easily as a car load. In addition to all this, I have been told that the fortunate possessor of this unlimited permit is the manager or superintendent for a stock company, in which Mr. Dewdney is said to be interested. I have been told, too, that when men who had squatted on the land of this Company came to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Territory to ask his advice about their rights to their claims, he strongly advised them to get off as rapidly as possible.

Now, Mr. Dewdney issues no unlimited permits. We have printed "the case in point" in full because the grotesqueness of the lie is its own answer. Would anybody who ever travelled in a Pullman car believe it? But let us analyse it a little. The constable, it will be observed, is said to have been in plain clothes. *No constable is ever sent to examine the valises of travellers to the North-West unless in uniform.* The description of "the friend of the Governor," to whom these very communicative young men "appealed"—mark "appealed," evidently knowing his power by intuition—answers to nobody in the North-West but Major Bell, of the

Part 1 of 3: 112 kb

Part 2 of 3: 104 kb

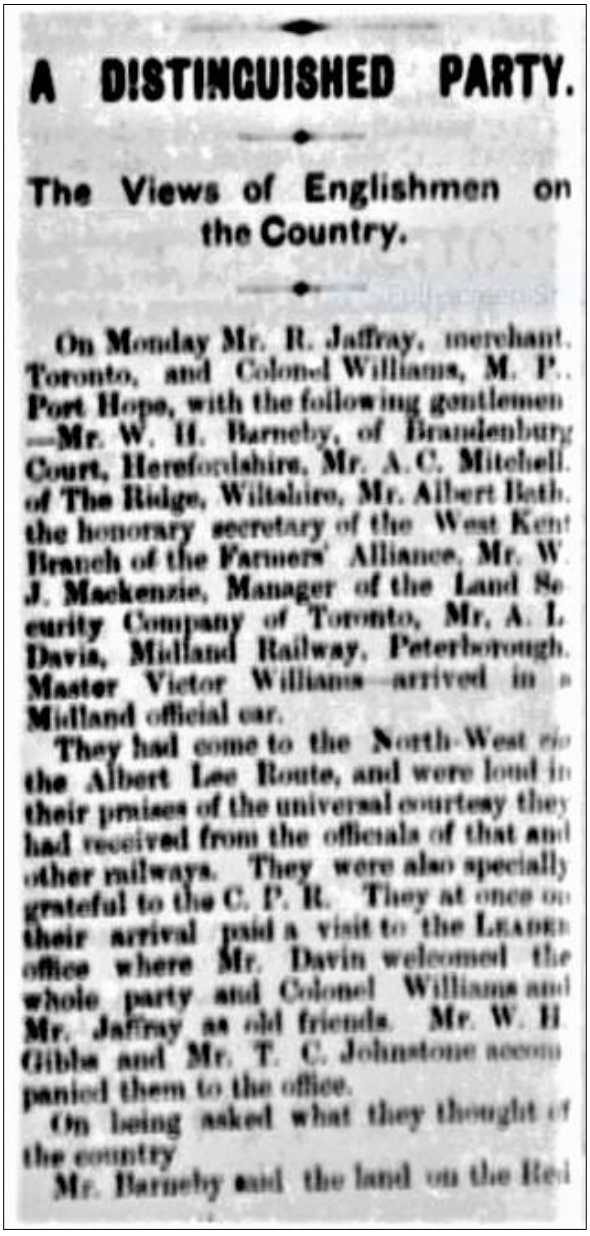


Bell Farm. Major Bell is a man of sense —is it likely that he would, even if he held an unlimited permit, act in the manner described? But we are not confined to verisimilitude. *As a fact Major Bell never has had any permit other than the ordinary limited permit, which allows a certain amount of whiskey and beer to be brought into the North-West.*

The veracious correspondent of the Globe, the cautious gentleman, who writes "unless he is grossly misinformed," has been palming off on the readers of the Globe for general news the wild hiccupping and miserable slobbering of tavern gossip as they impressed themselves on a beclouded brain. Major Bell was in the train on one occasion when some young fellows' valises were opened and liquor discovered. They said to him afterwards, "You, as a friend of the Governor, can bring in what you like." Major Bell's answer was the producing *of an ordinary permit cancelled.* We had hoped under the regime of Mr. Cameron that the Globe would lose its frightful character for systematic, unscrupulous mendacity. But, if we are to judge it by its North-West news, it is the least trustworthy paper on the continent

Part 3 of 3: 94 kb

1883 – July 26 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Group of British travellers visit the Bell Farm (more new names for Bell Farm Visitors listing).



A DISTINGUISHED PARTY.

The Views of Englishmen on the Country.

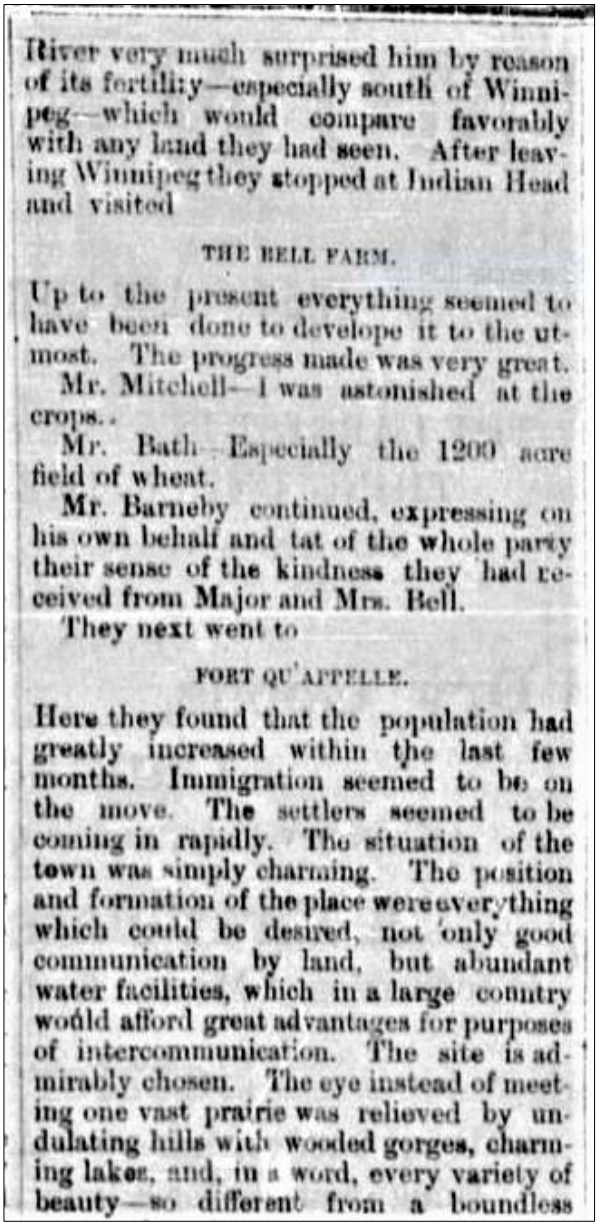
On Monday Mr. R. Jaffray, merchant, Toronto, and Colonel Williams, M. P., Port Hope, with the following gentlemen —Mr. W. H. Barneby, of Brandenburg Court, Herefordshire, Mr. A. C. Mitchell, of The Ridge, Wiltshire, Mr. Albert Bath, the honorary secretary of the West Kent Branch of the Farmers' Alliance, Mr. W. J. Mackenzie, Manager of the Land Security Company of Toronto, Mr. A. L. Davis, Midland Railway, Peterborough. Master Victor Williams—arrived in a Midland official car.

They had come to the North-West via the Albert Lee Route, and were loud in their praises of the universal courtesy they had received from the officials of that and other railways. They were also specially grateful to the C. P. R. They at once on their arrival paid a visit to the LEADER office where Mr. Davin welcomed the whole party and Colonel Williams and Mr. Jaffray as old friends. Mr. W. H. Gibbs and Mr. T. C. Johnstone accompanied them to the office.

On being asked what they thought of the country

Mr. Barneby said the land on the Red

Part 1 of 3: 103 kb



River very much surprised him by reason of its fertility—especially south of Winnipeg—which would compare favorably with any land they had seen. After leaving Winnipeg they stopped at Indian Head and visited

THE BELL FARM.

Up to the present everything seemed to have been done to develope it to the utmost. The progress made was very great.

Mr. Mitchell—I was astonished at the crops.

Mr. Bath—Especially the 1200 acre field of wheat.

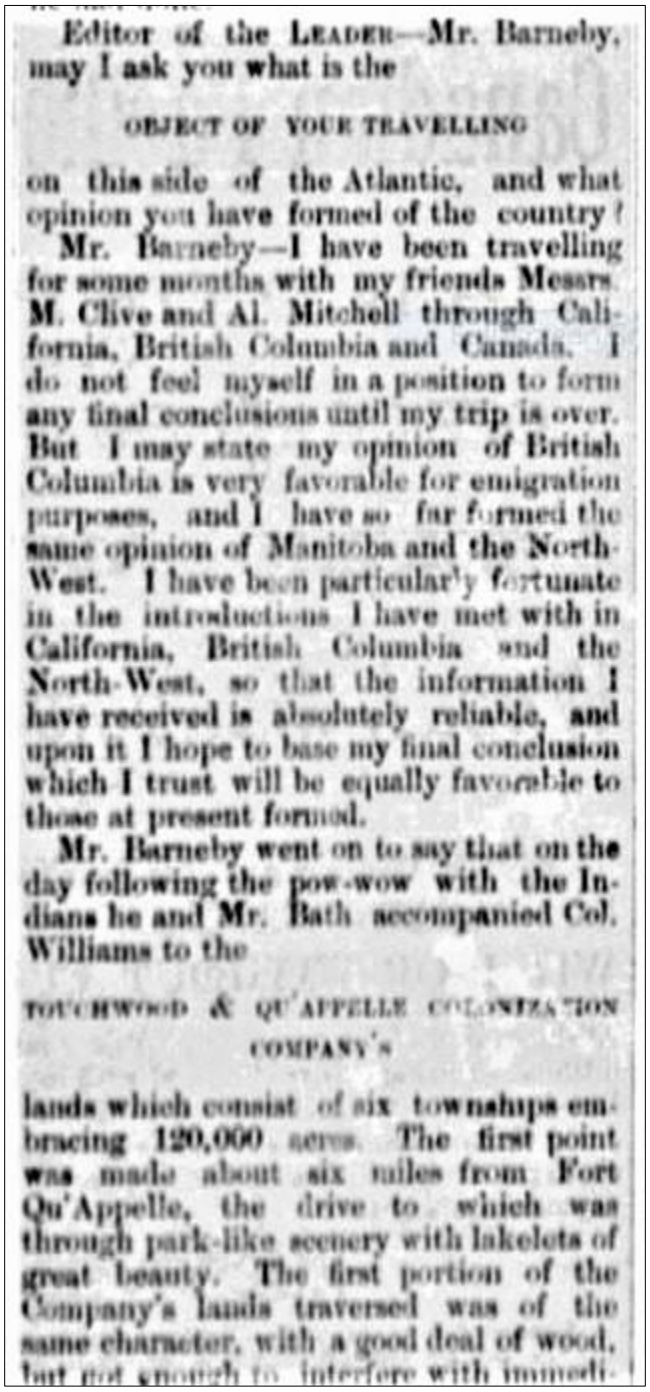
Mr. Barneby continued, expressing on his own behalf and tat of the whole party their sense of the kindness they had received from Major and Mrs. Bell.

They next went to

FORT QU'APPELLE.

Here they found that the population had greatly increased within the last few months. Immigration seemed to be on the move. The settlers seemed to be coming in rapidly. The situation of the town was simply charming. The position and formation of the place were everything which could be desired, not only good communication by land, but abundant water facilities, which in a large country would afford great advantages for purposes of intercommunication. The site is admirably chosen. The eye instead of meeting one vast prairie was relieved by undulating hills with wooded gorges, charming lakes, and, in a word, every variety of beauty—so different from a boundless

Part 2 of 3: 124 kb



Editor of the LEADER—Mr. Barneby, may I ask you what is the

OBJECT OF YOUR TRAVELLING

on this side of the Atlantic, and what opinion you have formed of the country?

Mr. Barneby—I have been travelling for some months with my friends Messrs. M. Clive and Al. Mitchell through California, British Columbia and Canada. I do not feel myself in a position to form any final conclusions until my trip is over. But I may state my opinion of British Columbia is very favorable for emigration purposes, and I have so far formed the same opinion of Manitoba and the North-West. I have been particularly fortunate in the introductions I have met with in California, British Columbia and the North-West, so that the information I have received is absolutely reliable, and upon it I hope to base my final conclusion which I trust will be equally favorable to those at present formed.

Mr. Barneby went on to say that on the day following the pow-wow with the Indians he and Mr. Bath accompanied Col. Williams to the

TOUCHWOOD & QU'APPELLE COLONIZATION COMPANY'S

lands which consist of six townships embracing 120,000 acres. The first point was made about six miles from Fort Qu'Appelle, the drive to which was through park-like scenery with lakelets of great beauty. The first portion of the Company's lands traversed was of the same character, with a good deal of wood, but not enough to interfere with immedi-

Part 3 of 3: 106 kb

- Mr. R. Jaffray, merchant, Toronto
- Colonel Williams, M.P. Port Hope
- Mr. W.H. Barneby, of Brandenburg Court, Herefordshire
- Mr. A.C. Mitchell, of the Ridges, Wiltshire
- Mr. Albert Bath, the honorary secretary of the West Kent Branch of the Farmers' Alliance
- Mr. W.J. Mackenzie, Manager of the Land Security Company of Toronto
- Mr. A.L. Davis, Midland Railway, Peterborough, Master Victor Williams

1883 – Aug. 4 – Update from E.J. Brooks on the Bell Farm's well in Indian Head

7 miles north of here. The C.P.R. are building a large reservoir here to hold water. They are tapping a lake that is about 6 miles south of here and bringing the water from there. I hope they will make a success of it. They intend grading up the track around here at once which will improve the road very much. The Bell farm have given up their well. They went down 380 feet, and it cost them all of $2000 —they intend now to dig a well and will get plenty of water at 25 feet but may go down 75 feet so as to have abundance. Mr. Crawford is putting up his new store, and Mr. Murray will probably give the job for ours next week. We are doing very

1883 – Aug. 10 – Letter Dewdney to Macdonald – Bell running for election

"Leckie, I think from what I hear, will be beaten, and Jackson & Bell will have a hard fight."

1883 – Aug. 13 – Major Bell defeated in election – letter from E.J. Brooks, a former squatter

are that I may be disturbed a good many times. This has been election day with us, and the agony is now over and Major Bell has been defeated by a majority of over 200. I think this was the only polling place that gave him a majority. I had intended not to vote, but Mr. Murray was bound to vote and I told him if he did so I should certainly vote against him and Mr. Bell, which I did. As an old squatter I could not see my way clear to vote for Mr. Bell, and at the same time I was very sorry to oppose an Indian Head man. We are getting along very nicely

1883 – Aug. 16 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Mrs. Bell provides prize at Winnipeg shooting match

bledon crack counted fourth. The prizes offered in this contest were as follows :—

1st prize—Locket (special design), presented by Mrs. Wm. Perret.....$10 00
2nd prize—Silver Card Receiver and Bouquet Holder, Mrs. W. G. Fonseca..... 30 00
3rd prize—Ladies' Dressing Case, Mrs. Wm. Whitehead..... 20 00
4th prize—Card Receiver, Ald. Wilson and Ham..... 15 00
5th prize—Gorham Silver Cup, John Woltz..... 12 00
6th prize—Shakespeare's Works, in 8 Volumes, R. D. Richardson..... 10 00
7th prize—Ladies' Riding Whip, Stalker & Hutchings..... 8 00
8th prize—Dresden China Flowers, Porter & Ronald..... 7 50
9th prize—One Doz. Cabinet Photos of Winner, Searle & Co..... 7 00
10th prize—Ladies Work Basket, Mrs. Wm. Bell..... 6 50
11th prize—Silver Maltese Cross, Mrs. Wm. Clark..... 5 00
12th prize—Pair of Vases, J. A. Moore & Co..... 5 00
13th prize—Ladies' Satchel, a Friend..... 5 00
14th " —Millinery, Miss A. Menzies.... 5 00
15th " —Lace Collar, a Friend..... 2 00

The result of the contest has shown some excellent scoring, the lowest winner in a series of fifteen prizes scoring 28 out of a possible 35. The lady prize winners are as below, with the names of their respective representatives and the scores made:—

Part 1 of 2

WINNERS—LADIES' MATCH.

1 Mrs. Houghton, Lt.-Col. Houghton..... 32
2 Mrs. Wells, J. H. Wells..... 31
3 Miss Frazer, Lt.-Col. Caswell..... 31
4 Miss Ptolemy, Mr. Mitchell..... 31
5 Mrs. Knight, Corp. Macklin..... 30
6 Mrs. Butters, Mr. Murdoch..... 30
7 Mrs. Bleasdale, A. W. Bleasdale..... 30
8 Miss Gouin, Lieut. Shelton..... 29
9 Mrs. Bennett, Mr. Hammond..... 29
10 Mrs. Baxter, Mr. Baxter..... 29
11 Mrs. May, Mr. May..... 29
12 Mrs. Irwin, Corp. Bruce..... 29
13 Mrs. Bedson, Mr. Gillis..... 28
14 Mrs. Blanchard, Capt. Grayburn..... 28
15 Mrs. Dodge, Sergt. Dodge..... 28

Shortly after the commencement of the ladies' match, firing began at the 500 yards in the Lieut.-Governor's match, and the 400 yards in the merchants' match. Active progress had been made in both these competitions, when the bugle sounded "cease firing" at 1 o'clock, and an adjournment was made for

LUNCHEON,

Part 2 of 2

1883 – Aug. 16 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Defeat of Major Bell in Territorial elections

> "In the Qu'Appelle District Mr. Jackson has been elected as we all anticipated. Major Bell was heavily weighted by misrepresentation, and sufficient time had not elapsed to destroy the impression of the original lies, while his opponent early secured the Metis vote – a vote which in that District is decisive. Mr. Jackson will, we trust, prove a real accession of strength and wisdom to the Council."

1883 – Aug. 18 – Brooks reports in letter to his wife Nellie on Bell Farm crop and harvest

Indian Head,
August 18th, 1883.

. . . . The Bell Co. expected to commence harvesting their wheat to-day but will probably leave it for a day or two longer. It looks very well and is very plump in the kernel. The straw is short and also the head but the wonder is that they have any crop at all on such breaking and such seeding as they did, besides the dryness of the season . . . . Yesterday was a very cold day but it is as bright as

1883 – August 20 – *Daily Evening Mercury, Quebec City, Quebec*, p. 1 – Proposed CPR opening tour to Calgary – likely stopped at the Bell Farm going to or returning from Calgary [see also *Regina Leader* entry for August 30, 1883 below]

GIGANTIC RAILWAY OPERATIONS.

The C.P.R. Opened to Calgarry.

The rapidity with which the work on the Canadian Pacific Railway has progressed is very remarkable, and great surprise is expressed that the directors intend opening the road to Calgary on Tuesday next. Among the Canadians who will

ACCOMPANY THE DIRECTORS

are ex-Governor Archibald, T. E. Kenny, and J. B. Duffus, of Halifax, and Mr. Charles Cassils, of Montreal. The distinguished foreigners Prince Hohenlohe, Count Gleichen, Earl Latham, Lord Elphinstone, J LeSage, editor of the London *Telegraph*, W. Hardman, editor of the London *Morning Post*; Baron Salvador, of the Paris *Figaro*; Prof. Bassie, Paris; Dr. Oskar, of the *Vienna Free Press*; and others will be among the number. Calgarry is 840 miles west of Winnipeg and almost at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The occasion will be

A DAY OF ECSTASY

A DAY OF ECSTASY

and triumph more especially to the Hon A. G. Archibald, who, not many years ago, prophesied the great future of this country though it was then a profound wilderness. Winnipeg which was then a priarie village shall astonish her visitors by the immense proportions and pride which she has assumed. The oxcart, the only means of travelling then in the country, shall be superseded by the magnificent palace cars having every comfort and luxury. To every one interested in Canadian progress, this is certainly an auspicious event in our history and one to be viewed with no little pride. The party expect to be absent about three weeks.

Part 1 of 2: 57 kb Part 2 of 2 38 kb

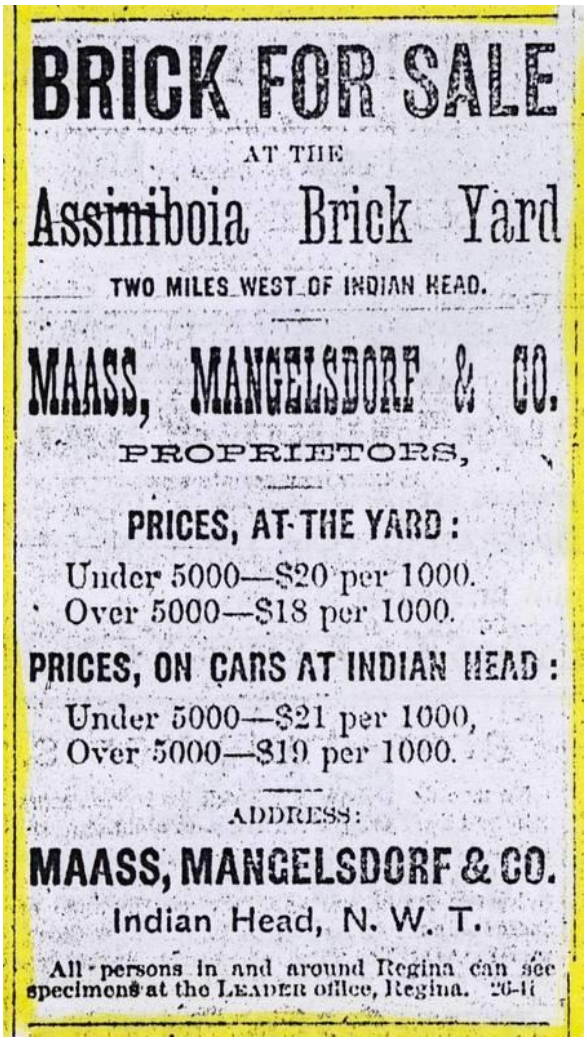
1883 – August 22 – *New York Sun*, p. 2 – Short report on Bell Farming Company – second largest farm in world

"The Bell Farming Company's farm is said to be the second largest in the world. It is in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Manitoba, and is about ten miles square. The capital is $600,000 of which 35 per cent has been expended, and the stock is held entirely in Canada and England. Last fall, before the railroad reached there, the company broke several hundred acres of land, and added to it largely in the spring, now having a growing crop, of 1,600 acres of wheat and 1,800 of oats."

Same article appears in at least the following newspapers:

- *Savanah Morning News, Georgia*, p. 2 – Aug. 25, 1883
- *Charlotte Home and Democrat, North Carolina,* p. 2 – Aug. 31, 1883
- *Maysville Daily Evening Bulletin, Kentucky*, p. 2 – Aug. 31, 1883
- *Brockport Republic*, New York, p. 8 – Sept. 6, 1883
- *Albany State Rights Democrat*, Oregon, p. 1 – Sept. 21, 1883
- *Hagerstown, Maryland*, p. 4 – Sept. 21, 1883
- *Ames Intelligencer, Iowa*, p. 2 – Sept. 29, 1883 (shorter version)
- *Balclutha Clutha Leader, Otago, New Zealand* – Jan. 11, 1884

1883 – August 23 – Ad in *Regina Leader* newspaper: Assiniboia Brick Yard sold bricks – owners Maass and Mangelsdorf


BRICK FOR SALE

AT THE

Assiniboia Brick Yard

TWO MILES WEST OF INDIAN HEAD.

MAASS, MANGELSDORF & CO.

PROPRIETORS,

PRICES, AT THE YARD:

Under 5000—$20 per 1000.
Over 5000—$18 per 1000.

PRICES, ON CARS AT INDIAN HEAD:

Under 5000—$21 per 1000,
Over 5000—$19 per 1000.

ADDRESS:

MAASS, MANGELSDORF & CO.

Indian Head, N. W. T.

All persons in and around Regina can see specimens at the LEADER office, Regina. 26-tf

50 kb

1883 – Aug 23 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Report on brickmaking on Bell Farm by Maass & Mangelsdorf

> "One of the most encouraging facts connected with the North-West is the success of the brick-making enterprise at Indian Head. Messrs. Maas[s] & Mangelsdorf saw there was excellent clay for brick-making and came out to the Bell Farm and found it all they could desire. There is no lime in it, no alkali, and it makes first-class bricks, compact, nothing porous about it. The bricks are white and superior to those made of Manitoba clay. They have already turned out 300,000 bricks and expect to turn out another 300,000 before the end of the year. They have 50 men working now and intend bringing out another gang next year."

1883 – summer – Presbyterian church erected with bricks from a local nearby farm – likely the Assiniboia Brick Yard

> "P.2 – During the latter part of the summer a brick church was erected at the corner of Eden and Boyle Streets. The initiative was taken by Messrs. Robt. Crawford, Merchant, and James Harvey, who kept a lumber year [yard?], and John Brown, blacksmith. They consulted with Mr. A.J. Osment, a contractor, and then sought the cooperation of Mr. Angus McKay (later Dr. MacKay of the Experimental Farm), his partners, Messrs. Williamson, Boone and Miller, and others. Consequently Mr. Osment erected the Church, the brick being made on a farm nearby. Cash subscriptions were secured of $695.50, the Church and Manse provided a loan of $1,000, and the total cost of the church was $2,195.50. The corner stone was laid by James Harvey. Dr. James Robertson officiated at the Church opening in the autumn. Dr. MacKay states that Mr. Ramsay was first minister to preach in the new Church. Dr. Ramsay himself does not remember its being opened in his time. The Willing Workers, an organization of young women and girls, provided a bell for the Church about 1895."
>
> *(Source: A Historical Sketch of St. Andrew's Church, Indian Head , 1930, by Rev. R.J. McDonald, p. 2 – Provincial. Archives of Saskatchewan: Sask. Historical Society File 220)*

1883 – Aug. 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell provides crop report

> **"CITY AND PROVINCE.** Major Bell of the Bell Farm, states that the crop will be a little late. The 1,400 acres of wheat will yield about 22 bushels to the acre 1,800 acres of oats have been sown. The total grain yield is expected to reach 80,000 bushels. The wheat will be distributed for seeding purposes, being all Red Fyfe. Twenty-three self-binders will be put to work to-day. Maj. Bell says that 9,000 acres have been broken and will be ready for next season's crop."

1883 – Aug. 27 – Harvest begins on the Bell Farm – Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 1, p. 11,

> Letter from J. McD. Gordon, Dec. 22, 1883, Regina – add text

1883 – August _____ - Prof. Tanner and Hugh Pollock visit the Bell Farm- book name & date?[see also Aug. 13, 1883 *Toronto Daily Mail* list of passengers on the "*Peruvian*" includes Tanner and Pollock]

> p. 25:

I have now to report upon a colonisation scheme in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence, with stabling and shedding enough for the stock. When this has been accomplished, these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at the valuation price, he paying for the same in five or ten annual instalments, as may be arranged. In the meantime each man receives

51 kb

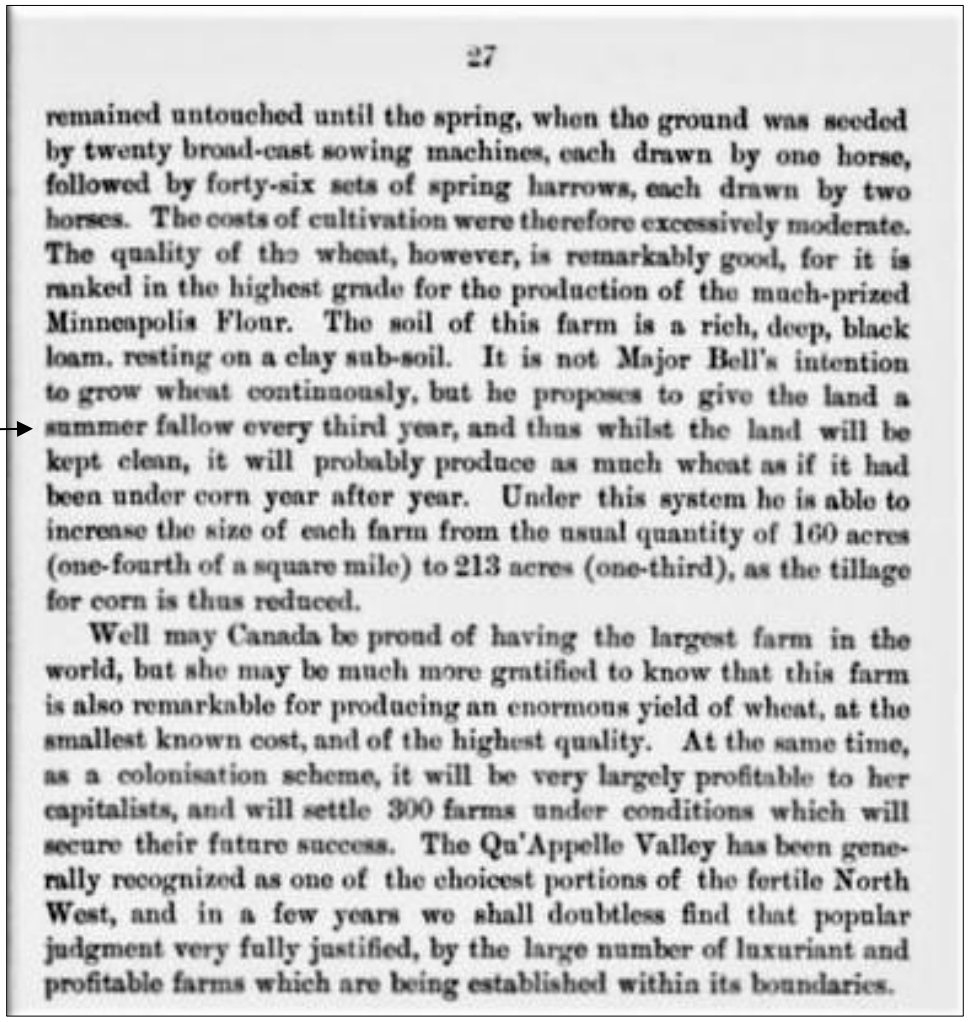
wages at the rate of £84 a year, and he has his house and one acre of garden ground rent free. This scheme is being carried out upon the Bell Farm, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, in the Province of Assiniboia, under the direction of Major Bell, the originator of the system, with Mr. T. Routledge as a Superintendent-in-Chief. The size of the farm is 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles. There is consequently a magnitude about the work which it is very difficult to realise, but as we learn what has been done we become better prepared to accept the anticipations of the future.

In May of last year this tract of open prairie land was more than 200 miles from any railway station. The ploughs commenced breaking the turf on the 15th of June, and the buildings were started on the 13th of August. When I visited this farm at the commencement of September in this year, no less than 40 homesteads had been built, over 9,000 acres were under the plough, and of this quantity 3,400 acres had produced excellent crops of wheat, yielding an estimated produce of 90,000 bushels of very superior corn. A main line of railway was running through the centre of the farm, and a town of considerable importance had been built near the railway station. If in May, 1882, any one had said that these results would be secured within sixteen months from that date, very few would have accepted his remarks as even probable. Proceeding then from what has been accomplished, I may now draw attention to what has been arranged for, and for these details I have to thank Major Bell, but he has expressed a doubt whether they will be accepted, except by those who have visited the scene of operations, and informed themselves as to the capabilities of the farm:—

August.	Acres under cor.	Horses on the farm.	Estimate of corn produced. Bushels.
1883	3,400	103	90,000
1884	9,000	200	180,000
1885	18,000	300	360,000
1886	25,000	350	500,000

These figures are undoubtedly astounding, but they are entitled to the highest respect. To watch 21 of Deering's Self-binding Reapers, each drawn by three horses, and working away at a 700 acre field of wheat, is a sight which will not be soon forgotten by those who witnessed it this harvest, but it certainly prepares the mind for dealing with large results. Nor was it less surprising to learn how very simple the preparation of the land had been for producing such a crop. The 3,400 acres of turf had been simply ploughed over about three inches deep in the previous summer, and it had

133 kb



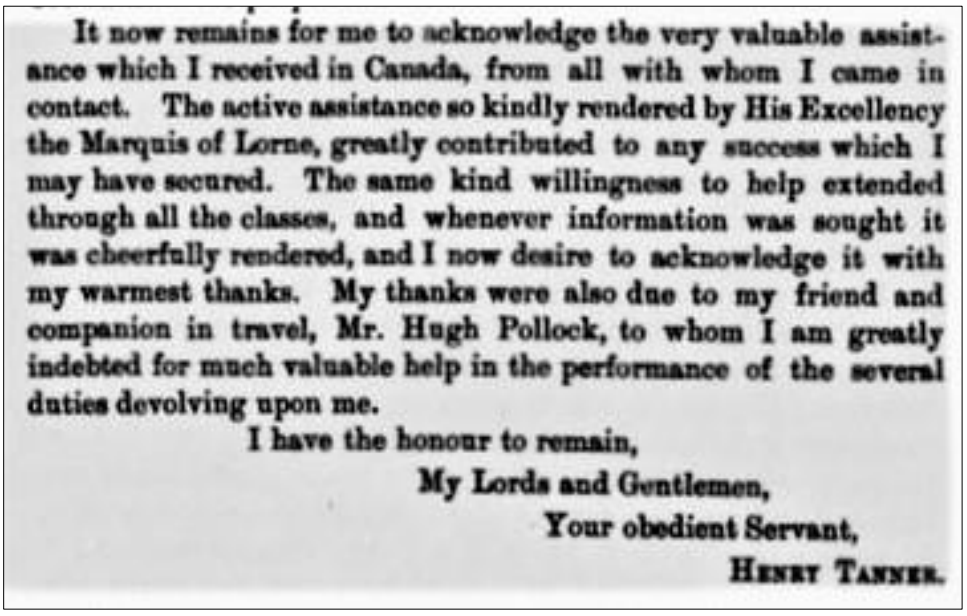
27

remained untouched until the spring, when the ground was seeded by twenty broad-cast sowing machines, each drawn by one horse, followed by forty-six sets of spring harrows, each drawn by two horses. The costs of cultivation were therefore excessively moderate. The quality of the wheat, however, is remarkably good, for it is ranked in the highest grade for the production of the much-prized Minneapolis Flour. The soil of this farm is a rich, deep, black loam, resting on a clay sub-soil. It is not Major Bell's intention to grow wheat continuously, but he proposes to give the land a summer fallow every third year, and thus whilst the land will be kept clean, it will probably produce as much wheat as if it had been under corn year after year. Under this system he is able to increase the size of each farm from the usual quantity of 160 acres (one-fourth of a square mile) to 213 acres (one-third), as the tillage for corn is thus reduced.

Well may Canada be proud of having the largest farm in the world, but she may be much more gratified to know that this farm is also remarkable for producing an enormous yield of wheat, at the smallest known cost, and of the highest quality. At the same time, as a colonisation scheme, it will be very largely profitable to her capitalists, and will settle 300 farms under conditions which will secure their future success. The Qu'Appelle Valley has been generally recognized as one of the choicest portions of the fertile North West, and in a few years we shall doubtless find that popular judgment very fully justified, by the large number of luxuriant and profitable farms which are being established within its boundaries.

106 kb – summer fallow

P. 32:



It now remains for me to acknowledge the very valuable assistance which I received in Canada, from all with whom I came in contact. The active assistance so kindly rendered by His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, greatly contributed to any success which I may have secured. The same kind willingness to help extended through all the classes, and whenever information was sought it was cheerfully rendered, and I now desire to acknowledge it with my warmest thanks. My thanks were also due to my friend and companion in travel, Mr. Hugh Pollock, to whom I am greatly indebted for much valuable help in the performance of the several duties devolving upon me.

I have the honour to remain,

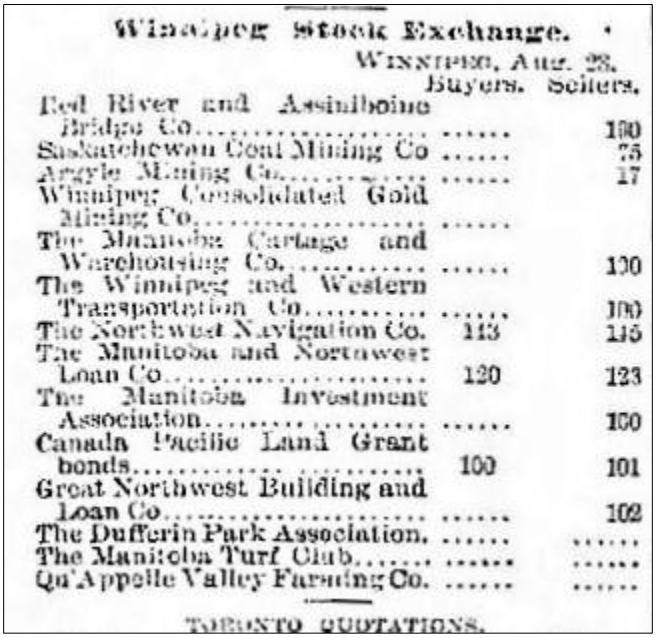
My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY TANNER.

65 kb

1883 – Aug. 29 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 7 – mention of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company on the Winnipeg Stock Exchange



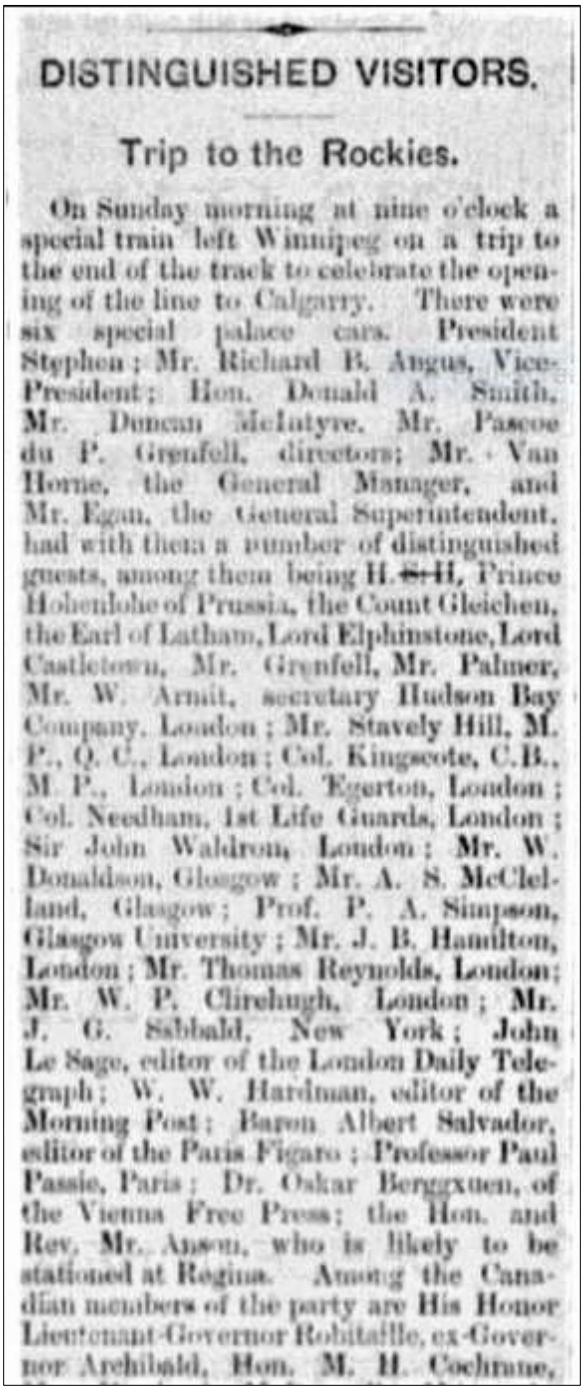
Winnipeg Stock Exchange.

WINNIPEG, Aug. 28.

	Buyers.	Sellers.
Red River and Assiniboine Bridge Co.	.....	100
Saskatchewan Coal Mining Co	.....	75
Argyle Mining Co.	.....	17
Winnipeg Consolidated Gold Mining Co.	.....	
The Manitoba Cartage and Warehousing Co.	.....	100
The Winnipeg and Western Transportation Co.	.....	100
The Northwest Navigation Co.	113	115
The Manitoba and Northwest Loan Co.	120	123
The Manitoba Investment Association	.....	100
Canada Pacific Land Grant bonds	100	101
Great Northwest Building and Loan Co.	.....	102
The Dufferin Park Association.	.....	.....
The Manitoba Turf Club	.....	.....
Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co.	.....	.....

TORONTO QUOTATIONS.

1883 – Aug. 30 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Sixty-six CPR officials and other dignitaries visit the Bell Farm on Aug. 29 after a fast trip from Montreal to the Rocky Mountains, via Minneapolis and Winnipeg.



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Trip to the Rockies.

On Sunday morning at nine o'clock a special train left Winnipeg on a trip to the end of the track to celebrate the opening of the line to Calgarry. There were six special palace cars. President Stephen; Mr. Richard B. Angus, Vice-President; Hon. Donald A. Smith, Mr. Duncan McIntyre, Mr. Pascoe du P. Grenfell, directors; Mr. Van Horne, the General Manager, and Mr. Egan, the General Superintendent, had with them a number of distinguished guests, among them being H. ~~S~~H. Prince Hohenlohe of Prussia, the Count Gleichen, the Earl of Latham, Lord Elphinstone, Lord Castletown, Mr. Grenfell, Mr. Palmer, Mr. W. Arnit, secretary Hudson Bay Company, London; Mr. Stavely Hill, M. P., Q. C., London; Col. Kingscote, C.B., M. P., London; Col. Egerton, London; Col. Needham, 1st Life Guards, London; Sir John Waldron, London; Mr. W. Donaldson, Glasgow; Mr. A. S. McClelland, Glasgow; Prof. P. A. Simpson, Glasgow University; Mr. J. B. Hamilton, London; Mr. Thomas Reynolds, London; Mr. W. P. Clirehugh, London; Mr. J. G. Sabbald, New York; John Le Sage, editor of the London Daily Telegraph; W. W. Hardman, editor of the Morning Post; Baron Albert Salvador, editor of the Paris Figaro; Professor Paul Passie, Paris; Dr. Oskar Berggxuen, of the Vienna Free Press; the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Anson, who is likely to be stationed at Regina. Among the Canadian members of the party are His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Robitaille, ex-Governor Archibald, Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Mr. Hartland McDougall, Montreal; Mr. T. E. Kenny, Mr. J. B. Duffus, of Halifax; Mr. Chas. Cassils, of Montreal; Mr. George Kirkpatrick, M. P., the Speaker of the House of Commons. The party passed here a little before nine o'clock. How strange it must have seemed to the Hon. A. G. Archibald, who a dozen years ago went in a Red River cart to Fort Garry as Lieutenant-Governor.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE'S MISSION.

A representative of the LEADER had a brief interview with His Serene Highness at the station on Sunday evening and it was learned from him that there was no intention on the part of the German Government to encourage the emigration of Germans to Canada. The desire of those in the Fatherland was to ascertain how the English carried on their system of colonization. "You can readily see on reflection," said the Prince to the interviewer of the Toronto Mail, "that the German Government would not encourage any scheme for the wholesale expatriation of their subjects to a country under the sway of a foreign power. I wish, however, of course, to see if the German settlers who are already in this country are prospering and contented with their lot. What the ultimate idea is in getting information as to methods of colonization it would not be politic for me to attempt to say." This is practically what His Highness said on Saturday evening.

98 kb 85 kb

According to the *St. Paul Sunday Globe*, p. 1, 26 Aug. 1883; the *Calgary Herald,* 31 Aug, 1883, p. 3; and the *Regina Leader*, 30 Aug. 1883, p. 1 - the following, plus others, were on the tour:

- Angus, Richard B., 2nd Vice-President, Canadian Pacific Railway Company
- Anson, Rev. Canon Adelbert John Robert – Archbishop of Assiniboia (later renamed Qu'Appelle)
- Anson, Mrs. _____ (wife of Rev. Anson)
- Anson, Hon. C., Montreal
- Archibald, Hon. Adams George, Nova Scotia - former Lieut. Gov. of North-West Territories
- Armit, William, Secretary, London, England - Hudson's Bay Company
- Berggruen (Berggexuen ?), Dr. Oskar, *Vienna Free Press*

- Bliss, George, New York – banking firm of Morton, Bliss & Company
- Bootle-Wilbraham, Edward, 1st Earl of Lathom
- Brodrick, Hon William St. John Fremantle, England – Member of Parliament
- Cassils, A.
- Cassils, Charles, Montreal
- Castletown, Lord (John Fitzpatrick, 2nd Baron of Castletown)
- Clirehugh, William Palin, London
- Cochrane, Senator Matthew Henry, Ottawa
- Cutt, B.
- Dawes, James P. – Montreal brewer
- Donaldson, W., Glasgow, Scotland
- Dufus, James B., Halifax
- Egan, John M. Canadian Pacific Railway Company – general superintendent, Western Division
- Egerton, Col., Alfred Mordaunt, London, England
- Elphinstone, William Buller Fullerton, 15th Lord Elphinstone (Northwest Land Company director)
- Gleichen, Count (brother of Prince Hohenlohe of Prussia and nephew of Queen Victoria)
- Grenfell, Pascoe du P., London, England, Canadian Pacific Railway director
- Hamilton, J.B., Essex, England
- Hardman, William W., editor *Morning Post*
- Hill, Alexander Staveley, QC – Member of Parliament
- Hohenlohe, Prince - of Prussia (Herman Ernst, nephew of Queen Victoria and brother of Count Gleichen)
- Jones, J.
- Kenny, Thomas Edward, Halifax
- Kingscote, Col. Robert Nigel Fitz-Hardinge, C.B. - Member of Parliament, England
- Kirkpatrick, Hon. George Airey – Member of Parliament, Speaker of the House of Commons, Ottawa
- Le Sage, John Merry , editor, *London Daily Telegraph*
- McClellan, A.S., Glasgow, Scotland
- McDonald, H.
- MacDougall, Hartland, Montreal – stockbroker and investor
- McIntyre, Duncan, 1st Vice-President, Canadian Pacific Railway Company
- Needham, Col. _____ - 1st Life Guards, London
- Palmer, Mr. _____
- Passie (Bassie ?), Professor Paul, Paris
- Potter, Howard, New York – banking firm of Brown Brothers & Company
- Reynolds, Thomas, London, England
- Robitaille, Hon. Theodore, Lieut. Gov. of Quebec
- Salvador, Baron Albert, editor, *Paris Figaro*
- Simpson, Professor Pierce Adolphus, Glasgow University, Scotland
- Sibbald, J.G., New York
- Smith, Donald A., Lord Strathcona, Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railway Company director
- Smithers, Charles Francis, Bank of Montreal president
- Stephen, Sir George, Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railway Company president
- Van Horne, Sir William Cornelius, Montreal, Canadian Pacific Railway Company general manager
- Wallace, Sir John
- Walrond, Sir John, Baronet, Devon, England

1883 – Aug. 31 – *Saskatchewan History*, Vol. X, No. 3 – Autumn 1957, *Documents of Western History*, p, 68-69. - Edwin Brooks report on Bell Farm harvest and dignitaries visiting the Farm,

> "Indian Head, August 31, 1883: . . . . I was up on the Bell farm a couple of days ago watching the self-binders at work, and think they do their business well. The wheat crop will be much better than anyone ever thought possible. Lords, Earls, etc., were here this week, two of them are cousins to the Queen.* They remained several hours looking over the Bell farm. . . . . "

Plus this footnote from the *Saskatchewan History* editor on Bell Farm visitors mentioned by Brooks:

*The occasion for this visit was an excursion arranged by the Canadian Pacific Railway to celebrate the opening of the line from Winnipeg to Calgary. Aboard the special train were President George Stephen, Mr. Donald A. Smith and other directors, Mr. Wm. Van Horne, General Manager, and a number of distinguished guests including H. S. H. Prince Hohenlohe of Prussia, Count Gleichen, the Earl of Lathom, Lord Elphinstone, and Lord Castletown. See *The Regina Leader*, September 6, 1883. *L. H. T.*

1883 – August – *Farmer's Advocate*, p. 238 (Vol. XVIII, No. 212) – Report on the Bell Farm progress

Our Great North-West.

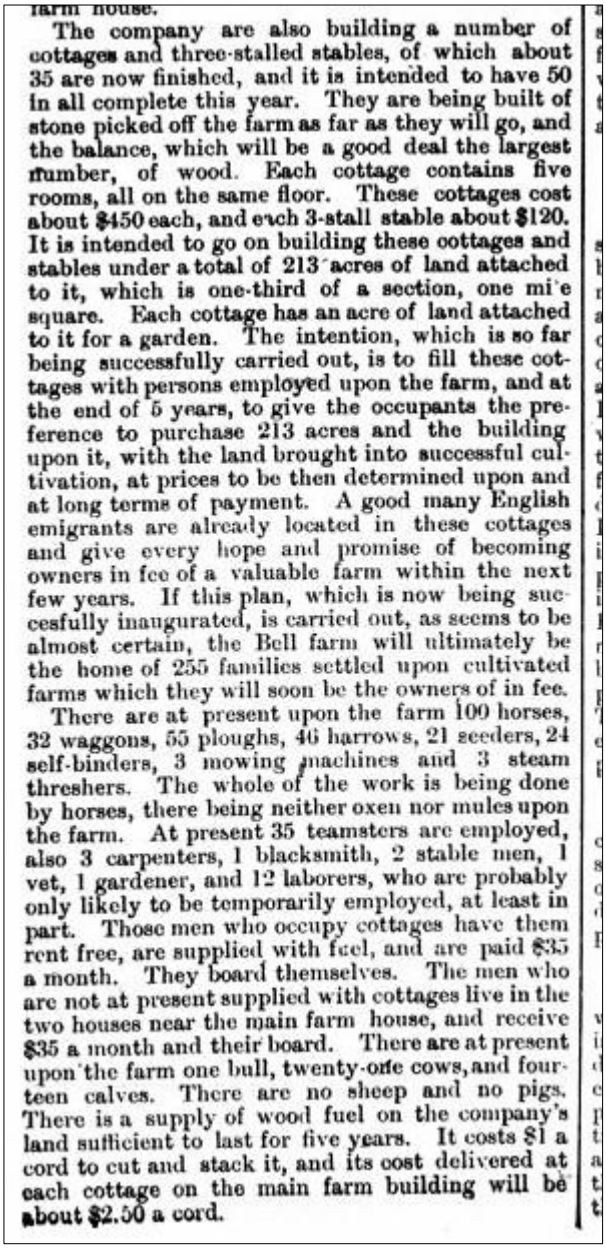
THE BELL FARM.

A correspondent sends the Manitoba *Free Press* the following account of a visit to the Bell Farm at Indian Head, which will no doubt prove of much interest :—

It is about ten miles square, and contains in all 56,800 acres. The school sections, two or three Hudson Bay sections, and the land occupied by three settlers, are within the square of ten miles: all the rest belongs to the Bell Farming Co. The farm is owned by a company which has a capital of $600,000, of which $100,000 has been issued in paid up stock. Last year the company, which is managed by Major Bell and C. W. Routledge, broke about 3,500 acres, and now have a growing crop of 1,600 acres of wheat, and 1,800 acres of oats. They are now busily at work breaking new land, and will complete the breaking this year of 6,000 acres, and will thus have about 9,500 acres of land ready for seed next spring. The land is a deep, sandy loam, having a few stones upon it, which will be cleared off and used for the erection, as far as they will go, of the large amount of buildings which the company is putting up.

They have about the centre of the farm a stone building, two stories high, and covered with a tin roof, which is 44 feet by 80, and contains eighteen rooms and two pantries, with a large dry cellar. A round stone stable has been built, 64 feet in diameter, with stalls for thirty-four horses, and in the upper story has room for sixty tons of hay and 3,000 bushels of oats, conveniently provided with shoots and appliances to save manual labor. Also a granary and store house, built of wood in the shape of a cross, each arm being 100 feet by 48 It has two floors, and wooden annexes have been added, which largely add to the capacity of the building. There are also two wooden houses for the men, each 32 feet by 26, and with comfortable sleeping accommodation for 17 men in each. There are also a blacksmith's shop, a carpenter's shop, a horse infirmary, dog kennel, ice house and hennery. There is also a kitchen garden promising a large crop of vegetables. All the buildings thus far mentioned are rouud the main farm house.

Part 1 of 3: 141 KB

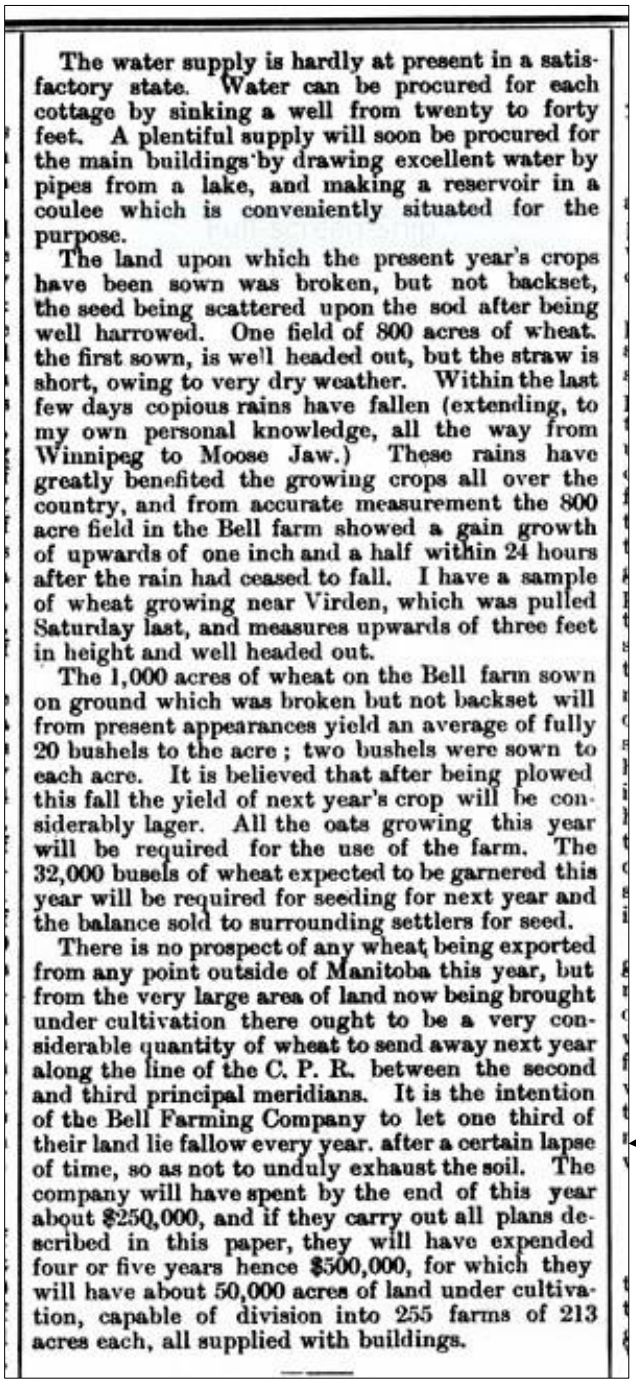


farm house.

The company are also building a number of cottages and three-stalled stables, of which about 35 are now finished, and it is intended to have 50 in all complete this year. They are being built of stone picked off the farm as far as they will go, and the balance, which will be a good deal the largest number, of wood. Each cottage contains five rooms, all on the same floor. These cottages cost about $450 each, and each 3-stall stable about $120. It is intended to go on building these cottages and stables under a total of 213 acres of land attached to it, which is one-third of a section, one mile square. Each cottage has an acre of land attached to it for a garden. The intention, which is so far being successfully carried out, is to fill these cottages with persons employed upon the farm, and at the end of 5 years, to give the occupants the preference to purchase 213 acres and the building upon it, with the land brought into successful cultivation, at prices to be then determined upon and at long terms of payment. A good many English emigrants are already located in these cottages and give every hope and promise of becoming owners in fee of a valuable farm within the next few years. If this plan, which is now being successfully inaugurated, is carried out, as seems to be almost certain, the Bell farm will ultimately be the home of 255 families settled upon cultivated farms which they will soon be the owners of in fee.

There are at present upon the farm 100 horses, 32 waggons, 55 ploughs, 46 harrows, 21 seeders, 24 self-binders, 3 mowing machines and 3 steam threshers. The whole of the work is being done by horses, there being neither oxen nor mules upon the farm. At present 35 teamsters are employed, also 3 carpenters, 1 blacksmith, 2 stable men, 1 vet, 1 gardener, and 12 laborers, who are probably only likely to be temporarily employed, at least in part. Those men who occupy cottages have them rent free, are supplied with fuel, and are paid $35 a month. They board themselves. The men who are not at present supplied with cottages live in the two houses near the main farm house, and receive $35 a month and their board. There are at present upon the farm one bull, twenty-one cows, and fourteen calves. There are no sheep and no pigs. There is a supply of wood fuel on the company's land sufficient to last for five years. It costs $1 a cord to cut and stack it, and its cost delivered at each cottage on the main farm building will be about $2.50 a cord.

Part 2 of 3: 154 KB



The water supply is hardly at present in a satisfactory state. Water can be procured for each cottage by sinking a well from twenty to forty feet. A plentiful supply will soon be procured for the main buildings by drawing excellent water by pipes from a lake, and making a reservoir in a coulee which is conveniently situated for the purpose.

The land upon which the present year's crops have been sown was broken, but not backset, the seed being scattered upon the sod after being well harrowed. One field of 800 acres of wheat. the first sown, is well headed out, but the straw is short, owing to very dry weather. Within the last few days copious rains have fallen (extending, to my own personal knowledge, all the way from Winnipeg to Moose Jaw.) These rains have greatly benefited the growing crops all over the country, and from accurate measurement the 800 acre field in the Bell farm showed a gain growth of upwards of one inch and a half within 24 hours after the rain had ceased to fall. I have a sample of wheat growing near Virden, which was pulled Saturday last, and measures upwards of three feet in height and well headed out.

The 1,000 acres of wheat on the Bell farm sown on ground which was broken but not backset will from present appearances yield an average of fully 20 bushels to the acre; two bushels were sown to each acre. It is believed that after being plowed this fall the yield of next year's crop will be considerably lager. All the oats growing this year will be required for the use of the farm. The 32,000 busels of wheat expected to be garnered this year will be required for seeding for next year and the balance sold to surrounding settlers for seed.

There is no prospect of any wheat being exported from any point outside of Manitoba this year, but from the very large area of land now being brought under cultivation there ought to be a very considerable quantity of wheat to send away next year along the line of the C. P. R. between the second and third principal meridians. It is the intention of the Bell Farming Company to let one third of their land lie fallow every year. after a certain lapse of time, so as not to unduly exhaust the soil. The company will have spent by the end of this year about $250,000, and if they carry out all plans described in this paper, they will have expended four or five years hence $500,000, for which they will have about 50,000 acres of land under cultivation, capable of division into 255 farms of 213 acres each, all supplied with buildings.

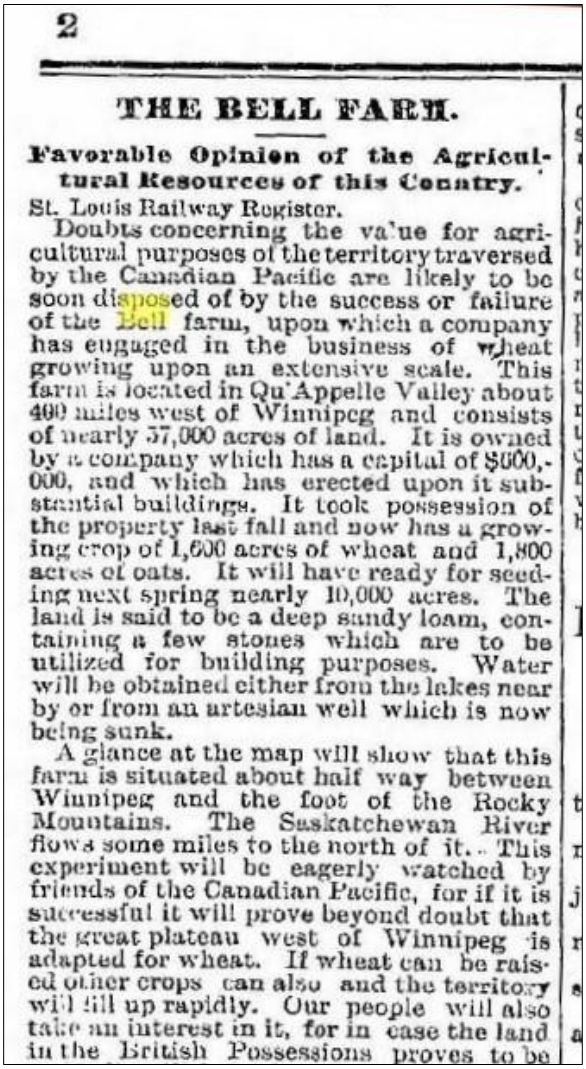
Part 3 of 3: summer fallow 164 KB

1883 – Sept 5 – *The Church Guardian* , p. 6 – CPR Dignitaries tour report – late Aug. 1883

"Such information as the following will bring more clearly before people's minds the great advance made by the railway, and the extent and vast resources of the North-West. The Canadian Pacific railway magnets, and distinguished guests on leaving Winnipeg ran the trip to Calgary, 840 miles, allowing for stoppages, at a rate of a little over 35 miles an hour. At Medicine Hat they took coal from Galt's mine, and with this fuel made at times sixty miles per hour to Calgary and back. The return trip was run even faster, being an average of 36 miles an hour. The party visited the Bell farm where they saw twenty one self binders at work on

Tuesday, and that day they harvested three-hundred acres of wheat. The yield will average 25 bushels per acre."

1883 – Sept. 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – two reports on the Bell Farm, taken from the *St. Louis Railway Register* and the *Boston Herald:* includes references to gathering stones for building construction



2

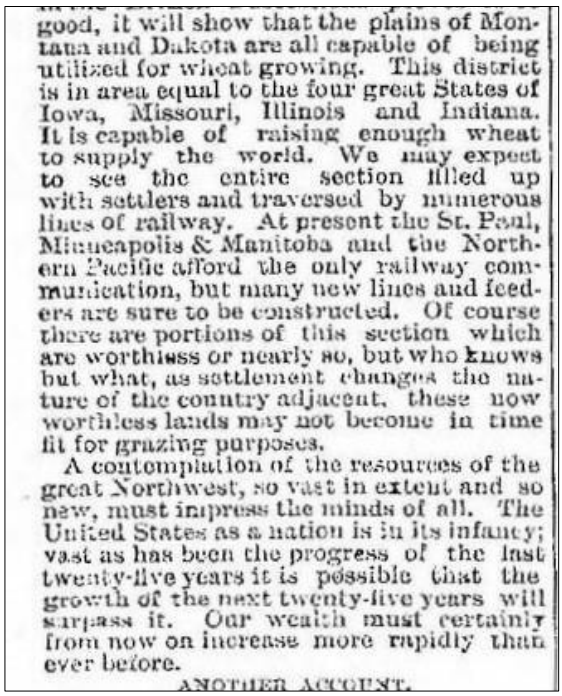
THE BELL FARM.

Favorable Opinion of the Agricultural Resources of this Country.

St. Louis Railway Register.

Doubts concerning the value for agricultural purposes of the territory traversed by the Canadian Pacific are likely to be soon disposed of by the success or failure of the Bell farm, upon which a company has engaged in the business of wheat growing upon an extensive scale. This farm is located in Qu'Appelle Valley about 400 miles west of Winnipeg and consists of nearly 57,000 acres of land. It is owned by a company which has a capital of $600,000, and which has erected upon it substantial buildings. It took possession of the property last fall and now has a growing crop of 1,600 acres of wheat and 1,800 acres of oats. It will have ready for seeding next spring nearly 10,000 acres. The land is said to be a deep sandy loam, containing a few stones which are to be utilized for building purposes. Water will be obtained either from the lakes near by or from an artesian well which is now being sunk.

A glance at the map will show that this farm is situated about half way between Winnipeg and the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The Saskatchewan River flows some miles to the north of it. This experiment will be eagerly watched by friends of the Canadian Pacific, for if it is successful it will prove beyond doubt that the great plateau west of Winnipeg is adapted for wheat. If wheat can be raised other crops can also and the territory will fill up rapidly. Our people will also take an interest in it, for in case the land in the British Possessions proves to be



good, it will show that the plains of Montana and Dakota are all capable of being utilized for wheat growing. This district is in area equal to the four great States of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. It is capable of raising enough wheat to supply the world. We may expect to see the entire section filled up with settlers and traversed by numerous lines of railway. At present the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba and the Northern Pacific afford the only railway communication, but many new lines and feeders are sure to be constructed. Of course there are portions of this section which are worthless or nearly so, but who knows but what, as settlement changes the nature of the country adjacent, these now worthless lands may not become in time fit for grazing purposes.

A contemplation of the resources of the great Northwest, so vast in extent and so new, must impress the minds of all. The United States as a nation is in its infancy; vast as has been the progress of the last twenty-five years it is possible that the growth of the next twenty-five years will surpass it. Our wealth must certainly from now on increase more rapidly than ever before.

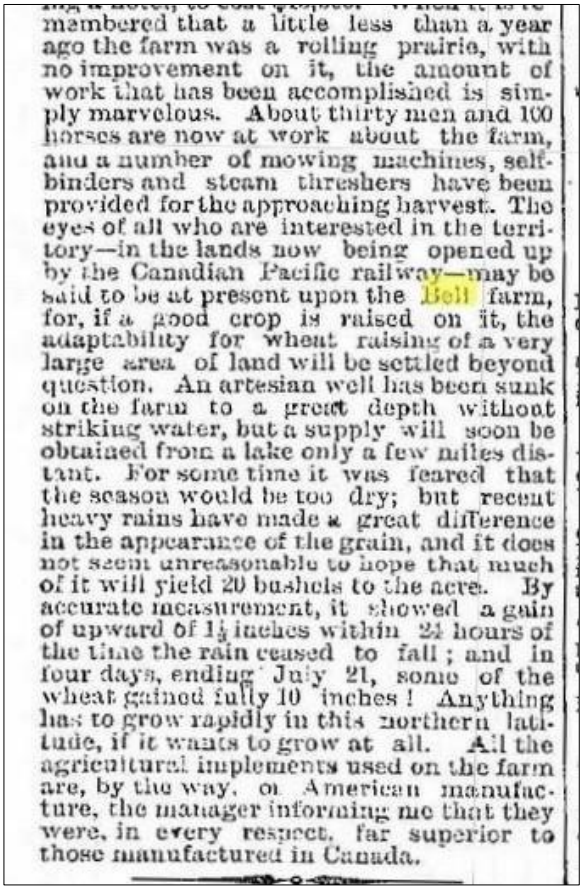
ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Part 1 of 4: *St. Louis Railway Register* (140 kb) Part 2 of 4: (115 kb)

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Correspondence Boston Herald.

From Maple Creek I went to Indian Head, and there stopped two days to investigate the operations of the Bell Farming Company. The company's farm, said to be the second largest in the world, is situated in the Qu'Appelle Valley, about 400 miles from Winnipeg, and is, roughly estimated, about 10 miles square, comprising 56,800 acres. The capital of the company is $[illegible], of which 35 per cent. has already been expended, and the stock is held entirely in Canada and England. Last fall, before the railroad reached there, the company broke several hundred acres of land, and added to it largely this spring, now having a growing crop of 1,800 acres of wheat and 1,800 acres of oats. It is still busily at work breaking new land, and will complete the breaking of 6,000 acres more this season, and have, therefore, 9,500 acres ready for seed next spring. The land is a deep, sandy loam, containing a few stones, which will be used, as far as they go, for the erection of the company's buildings. Quite near the centre of the farm, no part of which is more than six miles from the railroad, is a handsome stone building, which is used as the office of the company and the residence of the manager and his family. The manager, Major W. R. Bell, the chief promoter of the company, is a gentleman well known in eastern Canada, and has had extensive experience in farming. Back of his residence is a large vegetable garden, which seems to be doing fairly, and around it are numerous buildings, a large stone stable, huge granaries, a blacksmith shop, poultry house, etc., etc., and, about a quarter of a mile from there, the company is building a hotel, to cost $15,000. When it is re



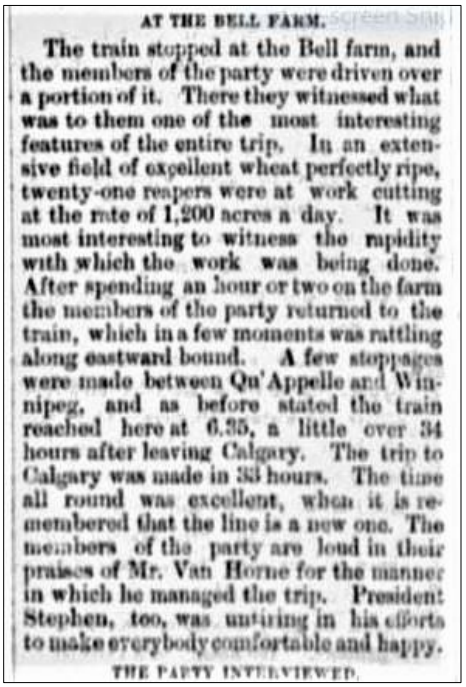
membered that a little less than a year ago the farm was a rolling prairie, with no improvement on it, the amount of work that has been accomplished is simply marvelous. About thirty men and 100 horses are now at work about the farm, and a number of mowing machines, self-binders and steam threshers have been provided for the approaching harvest. The eyes of all who are interested in the territory—in the lands now being opened up by the Canadian Pacific railway—may be said to be at present upon the Bell farm, for, if a good crop is raised on it, the adaptability for wheat raising of a very large area of land will be settled beyond question. An artesian well has been sunk on the farm to a great depth without striking water, but a supply will soon be obtained from a lake only a few miles distant. For some time it was feared that the season would be too dry; but recent heavy rains have made a great difference in the appearance of the grain, and it does not seem unreasonable to hope that much of it will yield 20 bushels to the acre. By accurate measurement, it showed a gain of upward of 1½ inches within 24 hours of the time the rain ceased to fall; and in four days, ending July 21, some of the wheat gained fully 10 inches! Anything has to grow rapidly in this northern latitude, if it wants to grow at all. All the agricultural implements used on the farm are, by the way, of American manufacture, the manager informing me that they were, in every respect, far superior to those manufactured in Canada.

Part 3 of 4: *Boston Herald* (140 kb) Part 4 of 4 (132 kb)

1883 – Sept. 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p 7 – Report on Bell farm crops

> "**COMMERCIAL – Crop Prospects** . . . . . On the Bell farm, they expect a fine crop, at least 23 bushels to the acre, and this sown on the sod. Several slight frosts have been reported, but none of any consequence as yet. To ensure the safety of the wheat crop, the country ought to have at least two weeks of fair weather. The wisdom of the efforts of the Bureau of Agriculture to prepare pure Scotch Fyfe for seeding purposes is shown in the vast improved condition of the crops in many localities over last year. . . . . ."

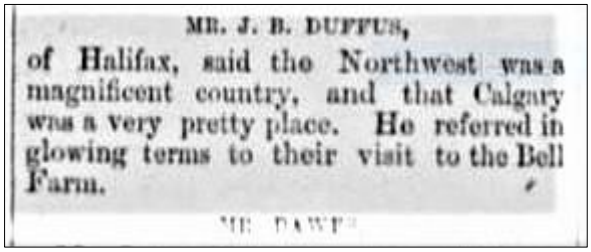
1883 – Sept. 6 – *Regina Leader,* p1 – Grand CPR Tour returns East from Rockies; visits Bell Farm (See Aug. 30 for partial listing)



AT THE BELL FARM.

The train stopped at the Bell farm, and the members of the party were driven over a portion of it. There they witnessed what was to them one of the most interesting features of the entire trip. In an extensive field of excellent wheat perfectly ripe, twenty-one reapers were at work cutting at the rate of 1,200 acres a day. It was most interesting to witness the rapidity with which the work was being done. After spending an hour or two on the farm the members of the party returned to the train, which in a few moments was rattling along eastward bound. A few stoppages were made between Qu'Appelle and Winnipeg, and as before stated the train reached here at 6.35, a little over 34 hours after leaving Calgary. The trip to Calgary was made in 33 hours. The time all round was excellent, when it is remembered that the line is a new one. The members of the party are loud in their praises of Mr. Van Horne for the manner in which he managed the trip. President Stephen, too, was untiring in his efforts to make everybody comfortable and happy.

THE PARTY INTERVIEWED.



MR. J. B. DUFFUS,

of Halifax, said the Northwest was a magnificent country, and that Calgary was a very pretty place. He referred in glowing terms to their visit to the Bell Farm.

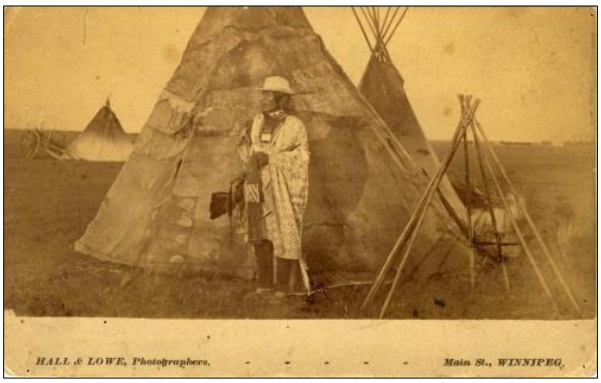
1883 – Sept. 6 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 - a brief comment on Bell Farm crops

> "Notes & Comments: We have seen some wheat threshed from the Bell Farm. It is full and firm – the very best No. 1 Scotch Fyfe."

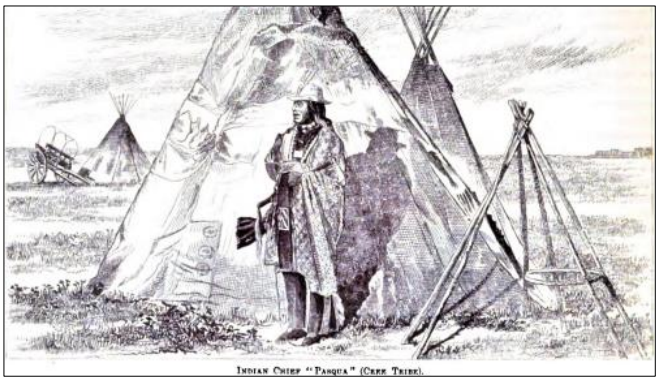
1883 – Sept. 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* - harvest visit of photographers Hall and Lowe from Winnipeg

> "The views from the Bell farm, in possession of Mr. Harder, of the C.P.R., are truly splendid. One represents 17 self-binders at work on a monumental field of wheat. Another shows about the same number of mowers turning out of the stables to go to work cutting hay in the meadows of the farm. The farm residence and out buildings makes another pretty picture. Another one view is shown of Major Bell's favourite horse, attended by his faithful groom. There are in all some twenty views taken by Hall & Lowe, of this city. It is intended to have the photos lithographed, so that they can be used in the new C.P.R. folder."

1883 - Hall and Lowe photographs include one of Cree Chief Pasqua:



1885 photo of Chief Pasqua by Hall and Lowe 141 kb



1885 sketch of Chief Pasqua in the *Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine: June 1, 1885: p. 372* 159 kb

[Frank's Note: It is possible that the Indigenous camp on the Bell Farm, partly visible above, might have looked something like their Encampment shown in the undated photo below.] [Source: Postcard published by A.G. Orchard, Indian Head, Sask.; based on original photo by Paul Denison, at PAS]

142 KB

Indigenous woman next to one of the wooden Bell Farm barns. 315 kb

1883 – harvest time – as reported by Edmond (Ted) H. Eberts, who worked on the Bell Farm during the summers of 1883, 1884 and 1885

"But the harvest season eclipsed all other times in colour, movement and excitement. Then the great binders – 26 in echelon – with six horses harnessed to each, would lumber into the standing grain and cut out a square mile or more from one of the main fields. In the wake of the binders came the Indian stookers, 150 of them in groups of three, to string out around the four mile swath. Each man wore a striped or crimson blanket; his hair, confined by a coloured head cloth, was worn in two plaits; upon the lower lip and chin were three diverging lines of tattoo; on each cheek a circular smear of vermillion; on his feet tessellated moccasins decorated with bead work, like the fire bag worn at the belt. It was an animated and colourful scene. When the binders repassed each trio would stook the sheaves in its allotted span and then squat and smoke their little long stemmed stone pipes, inhaling each drought with a hissing sound, passing the pipe from one to another and taking turns in filling and lighting. The air reeked of kinikinik.

After remaining in stook for ten days or a fortnight, the sheaves were stacked. Threshing did not begin until November or later. The grain was stored in circular field granaries until hauled to the elevator.

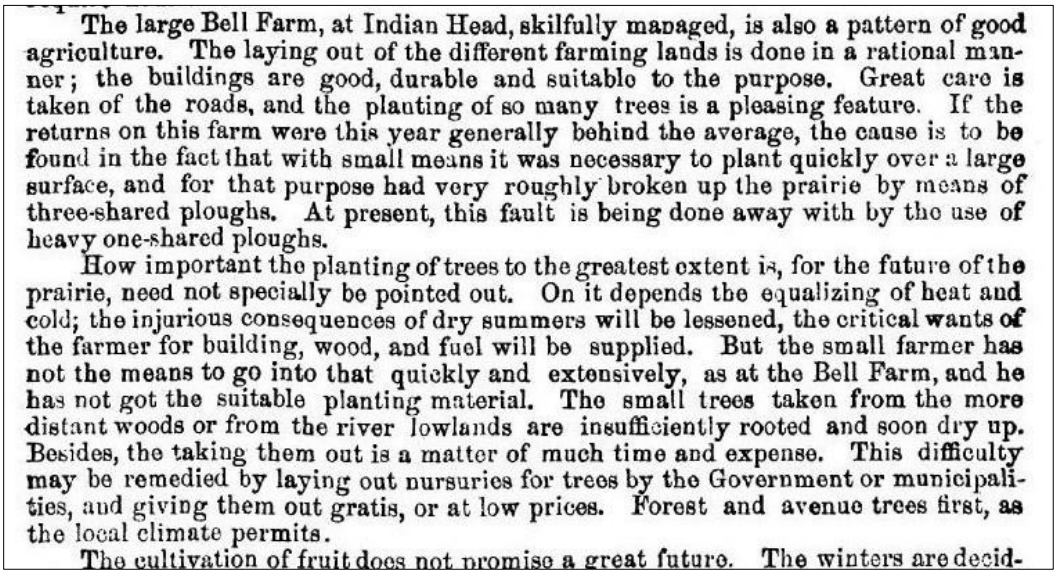
At the harvest each Indian was paid fifty cents a day. Their teepees were pitched on the townsite at Indian Head. The beating of tom toms at evening dances, the barking of innumerable half starved curs and the shrill squeals of rival stallions , added to the dust, noise, confusion and excitement."

(Source: Sask. Historical Society collection, file 19, p. 5-6 - dated 1944)

1883 – Sept. ___ - *Sessional Papers 1884* – No. 14, Vol 8, p. 14-246 – Welsh delegates W.J. Williams and J. Owen report - after Sept. 13

"Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, farms 64,000 acres at Indian Head, for the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. He came to the district fifteen months ago and considers £200 sufficient capital to start. The land upon which he is settled is excellent, and yields 25 bushels of wheat to the acre, and 50 bushels of oats. The ploughing season was commenced on 17th April. Labourers are paid $35 (£7) per month in summer, and $28 (£5 12s.) in winter, besides a cottage each, rent free, and an acre of land. Wood is sold to them at cost price. The winter in this part is found to be cold though healthy. The other periods of the year are also found to be healthy. Sheep, cattle and poultry do well."

1883 – Sept. ___ - Sessional Papers 1884 – No. 14, Vol. 8, p. 14 -253 – German Delegate Dr. Spielberg report



The large Bell Farm, at Indian Head, skilfully managed, is also a pattern of good agriculture. The laying out of the different farming lands is done in a rational manner; the buildings are good, durable and suitable to the purpose. Great care is taken of the roads, and the planting of so many trees is a pleasing feature. If the returns on this farm were this year generally behind the average, the cause is to be found in the fact that with small means it was necessary to plant quickly over a large surface, and for that purpose had very roughly broken up the prairie by means of three-shared ploughs. At present, this fault is being done away with by the use of heavy one-shared ploughs.

How important the planting of trees to the greatest extent is, for the future of the prairie, need not specially be pointed out. On it depends the equalizing of heat and cold; the injurious consequences of dry summers will be lessened, the critical wants of the farmer for building, wood, and fuel will be supplied. But the small farmer has not the means to go into that quickly and extensively, as at the Bell Farm, and he has not got the suitable planting material. The small trees taken from the more distant woods or from the river lowlands are insufficiently rooted and soon dry up. Besides, the taking them out is a matter of much time and expense. This difficulty may be remedied by laying out nurseries for trees by the Government or municipalities, and giving them out gratis, or at low prices. Forest and avenue trees first, as the local climate permits.

The cultivation of fruit does not promise a great future. The winters are decid-

1883 – Sept. 14 – *Fort MacLeod Gazette*, p. 4 – Crop report at the Bell Farm – Red Fyfe and oats

"NEWS OF THE WEEK. . . . . On the Bell Farm the crop prospects are good. Twenty-three self-binders will work in one field. Quantity of wheat sown, 1,400 acres; average will be 20 to 22 bushels to the acre; oats, 1.800 acres. Wheat is all pure Red Fyfe. Nine thousand acres have been broken, and will be ready for next season's crop."

1883 – Sept. 14 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Ebbert reports on Bell Farm crop

"**CITY AND PROVINCE** . . . . Mr. Ebberts, of the Bell Farm, is in the city, and he reports that they are now threshing wheat at the rate of 2,000 bushels per day. The yield is running twenty-two bushels to the acre. A noteworthy fact in this connection is that this field is on the breaking without being back-set."

1883 – Sept. 18 - *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell in Winnipeg – Bell Farm crop report

"PERSONAL. Major Bell, of the Bell farm, arrived from the west last night, and reports harvest nearly over and the yield of wheat beyond their most sanguine expectations."

1883 – Sept. 20 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Report on the Bell Farm and Harvest

THE BELL FARM.

Harvesting Operations in Full Blast.

Interesting Description of the Farm and the Town of Indian Head.

From Our Special Correspondent.

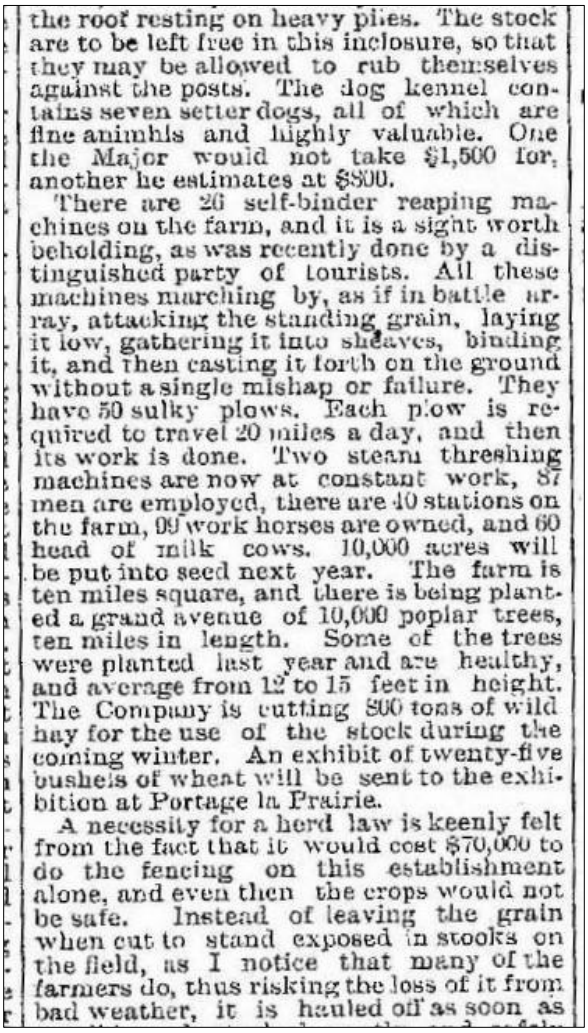
Three hundred and twelve miles from Winnipeg, on the line of the C. P. R., stands the above named now well known farm. But it may be asked why did the company travel so far westward to do its farming? The reason was this: When the company applied to the Government for land for their present enterprise, they were told that if they could find a block of 100 sections anywhere in the far west free from settlers, they would be allowed to occupy it. Major Bell started in search of this land, and at length found it at Indian Head. But there were four squatters already on it. These he bought out, paying the highest $800 and the lowest $250 for their shanties. Soon after getting possession others came along and squatted on the land. These were notified to leave, most of them did so; but two or three stayed and put up shanties, and still hold on to them like grim death to his victim, waiting, Micawber-like, for something to turn up.

A visit to this farm fairly astonishes

Part 1 134 kb

A visit to this farm fairly astonishes one, to see what can be done by intelligence, enterprise and capital in the short space of twelve months. The dwelling house or headquarters of the farm stands about a mile and a half back from the railroad. It is a plain substantial building of stone. Surrounding it are a granery and store-house, a large stone stable for horses, a blacksmith shop, a shed for cattle, an ice house, a dog kennel, etc. The granery and store-house are capable of holding 30,000 bushels of wheat, besides all the stores and implements for the use of the farm. In one compartment alone of this granery, I saw 8,000 bushels (and then it was not half full) of the finest Fyfe wheat, yellow and pure as gold, without dirt or weed-seeds of any kind. When the harvest has all been ingathered there will be 30,000 bushels of the same. It will weigh 67 lbs. to the bushel, and average 22 bushels to the acre. The yield of oats will be 70,000 bushels. All the product of 3,000 acres of land this year. This wheat will all be reserved for next year's seed, both for their own use and the use of all farmers who may desire to purchase it. The company intend to establish a No. 1 grade that they call "Qu'Appelle Wheat," which will be unsurpassed for quality on the whole of this vast continent, if not in the world at large. The stable is a circular stone building with square holes at intervals all round it, for light and ventilation. There are stalls for thirty-six horses in this building, and it is as clean as a parlor. The feed is kept in the upper story, and is conveyed through a shute to the lower. One man attends to the whole stable. The cattle shed is capable of holding 200 head of stock, and is open on every side all round, the roof resting on heavy piles. The stock

Part 2 172 kb

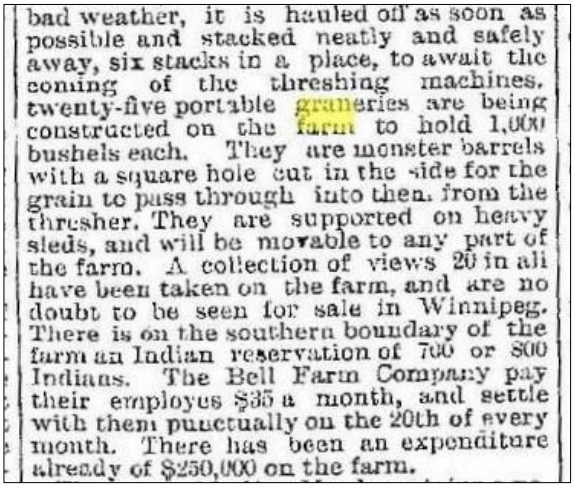


the roof resting on heavy piles. The stock are to be left free in this inclosure, so that they may be allowed to rub themselves against the posts. The dog kennel contains seven setter dogs, all of which are fine animals and highly valuable. One the Major would not take $1,500 for, another he estimates at $800.

There are 26 self-binder reaping machines on the farm, and it is a sight worth beholding, as was recently done by a distinguished party of tourists. All these machines marching by, as if in battle array, attacking the standing grain, laying it low, gathering it into sheaves, binding it, and then casting it forth on the ground without a single mishap or failure. They have 50 sulky plows. Each plow is required to travel 20 miles a day, and then its work is done. Two steam threshing machines are now at constant work, 87 men are employed, there are 10 stations on the farm, 90 work horses are owned, and 60 head of milk cows. 10,000 acres will be put into seed next year. The farm is ten miles square, and there is being planted a grand avenue of 10,000 poplar trees, ten miles in length. Some of the trees were planted last year and are healthy, and average from 12 to 15 feet in height. The Company is cutting 800 tons of wild hay for the use of the stock during the coming winter. An exhibit of twenty-five bushels of wheat will be sent to the exhibition at Portage la Prairie.

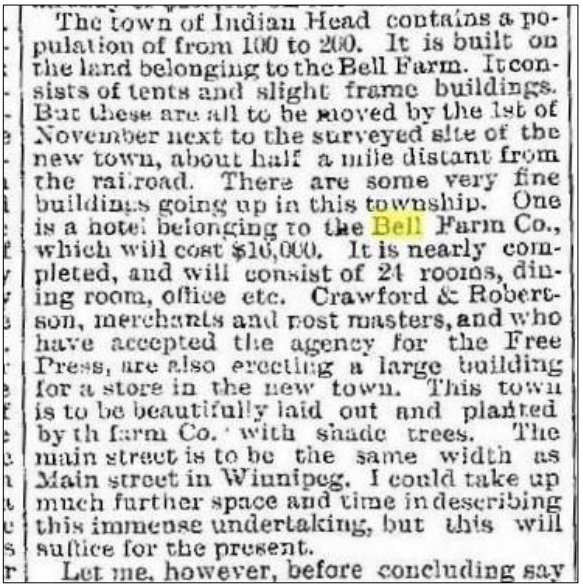
A necessity for a herd law is keenly felt from the fact that it would cost $70,000 to do the fencing on this establishment alone, and even then the crops would not be safe. Instead of leaving the grain when cut to stand exposed in stooks on the field, as I notice that many of the farmers do, thus risking the loss of it from bad weather, it is hauled off as soon as

Part 3 175 kb



bad weather, it is hauled off as soon as possible and stacked neatly and safely away, six stacks in a place, to await the coming of the threshing machines. twenty-five portable granaries are being constructed on the farm to hold 1,000 bushels each. They are monster barrels with a square hole cut in the side for the grain to pass through into them from the thresher. They are supported on heavy sleds, and will be movable to any part of the farm. A collection of views 20 in all have been taken on the farm, and are no doubt to be seen for sale in Winnipeg. There is on the southern boundary of the farm an Indian reservation of 700 or 800 Indians. The Bell Farm Company pay their employes $35 a month, and settle with them punctually on the 20th of every month. There has been an expenditure already of $250,000 on the farm.

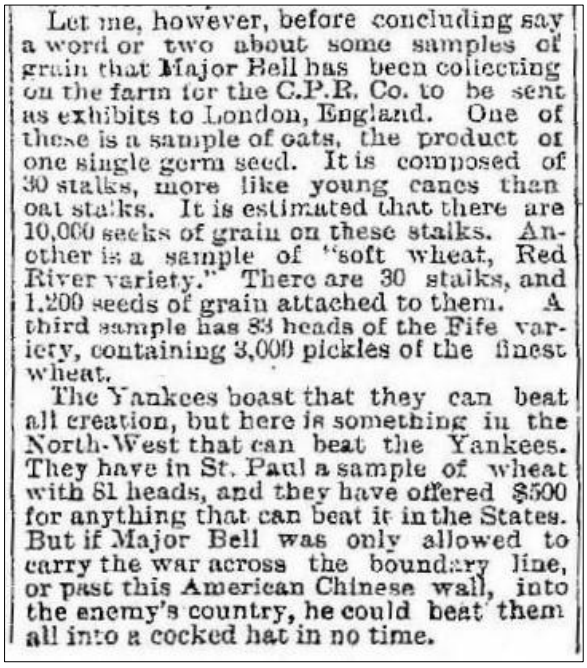
Part 4 109 kb



The town of Indian Head contains a population of from 100 to 200. It is built on the land belonging to the Bell Farm. It consists of tents and slight frame buildings. But these are all to be moved by the 1st of November next to the surveyed site of the new town, about half a mile distant from the railroad. There are some very fine buildings going up in this township. One is a hotel belonging to the Bell Farm Co., which will cost $16,000. It is nearly completed, and will consist of 24 rooms, dining room, office etc. Crawford & Robertson, merchants and post masters, and who have accepted the agency for the Free Press, are also erecting a large building for a store in the new town. This town is to be beautifully laid out and planted by th farm Co. with shade trees. The main street is to be the same width as Main street in Winnipeg. I could take up much further space and time in describing this immense undertaking, but this will suffice for the present.

Let me, however, before concluding say

Part 5 127 kb



Let me, however, before concluding say a word or two about some samples of grain that Major Bell has been collecting on the farm for the C.P.R. Co. to be sent as exhibits to London, England. One of these is a sample of oats, the product of one single germ seed. It is composed of 30 stalks, more like young canes than oat stalks. It is estimated that there are 10,000 seeds of grain on these stalks. Another is a sample of "soft wheat, Red River variety." There are 30 stalks, and 1,200 seeds of grain attached to them. A third sample has 83 heads of the Fife variety, containing 3,000 pickles of the finest wheat.

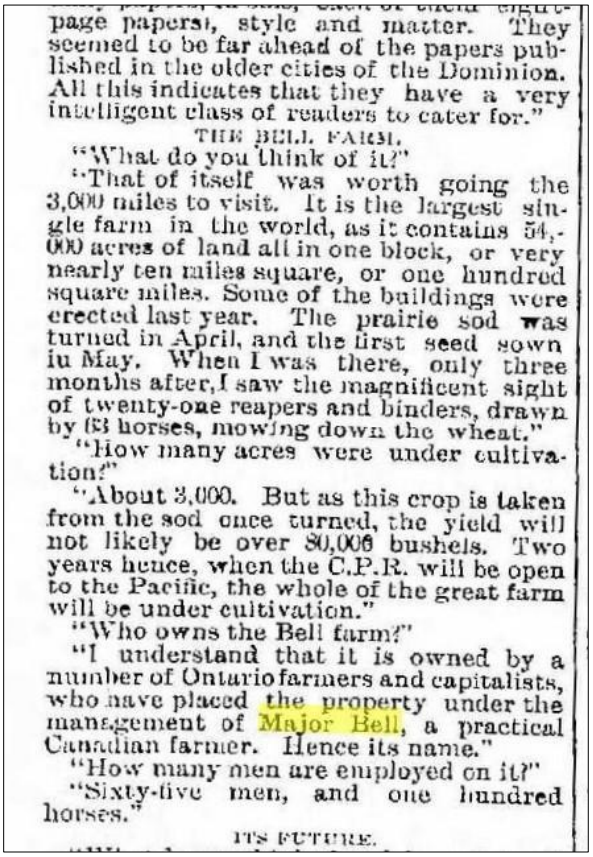
The Yankees boast that they can beat all creation, but here is something in the North-West that can beat the Yankees. They have in St. Paul a sample of wheat with 81 heads, and they have offered $500 for anything that can beat it in the States. But if Major Bell was only allowed to carry the war across the boundary line, or past this American Chinese wall, into the enemy's country, he could beat them all into a cocked hat in no time.

Part 6 129 kb

1883 – Sept. – Impressive crop report at the Bell Farm in 1883 – (reported in the Sept. 16, 1886 edition of the – *Qu'Appelle Progress* p. 2)

> "In 1883 there was found on the Bell Farm, at Indian Head, Assiniboia, a single stool of wheat growing in the fields containing 79 perfect ears, and an estimated 4000 grains. From the same farm came a stool of oats with 27 heads, and a stool of bearded wheat with 30 heads. These yields, wonderful though they are, may have been exceeded but they show the extreme richness of a soil that can give such results with the simplest cultivation, without a pound of manure – Emigrant."

1883 – Sept 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Bell Farm report



page papers, style and matter. They seemed to be far ahead of the papers published in the older cities of the Dominion. All this indicates that they have a very intelligent class of readers to cater for."

THE BELL FARM.

"What do you think of it?"

"That of itself was worth going the 3,000 miles to visit. It is the largest single farm in the world, as it contains 54,000 acres of land all in one block, or very nearly ten miles square, or one hundred square miles. Some of the buildings were erected last year. The prairie sod was turned in April, and the first seed sown in May. When I was there, only three months after, I saw the magnificent sight of twenty-one reapers and binders, drawn by 63 horses, mowing down the wheat."

"How many acres were under cultivation?"

"About 3,000. But as this crop is taken from the sod once turned, the yield will not likely be over 80,000 bushels. Two years hence, when the C.P.R. will be open to the Pacific, the whole of the great farm will be under cultivation."

"Who owns the Bell farm?"

"I understand that it is owned by a number of Ontario farmers and capitalists, who have placed the property under the management of Major Bell, a practical Canadian farmer. Hence its name."

"How many men are employed on it?"

"Sixty-five men, and one hundred horses."

ITS FUTURE.

Part1 172 kb

ITS FUTURE.

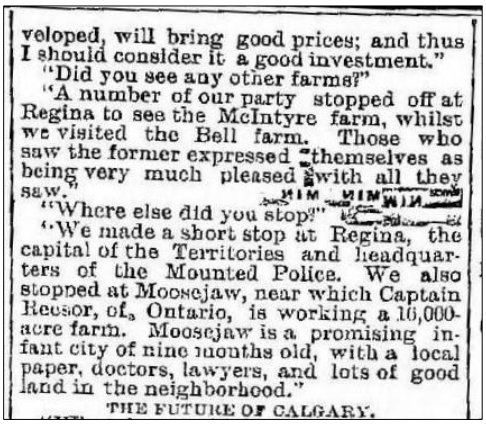
"What do you think of such large farms?"

"They are of great value now in showing the capabilities of the soil. But Major Bell expressed the opinion to us that when the whole 54,000 acres were under cultivation, the farm would be too large for single management. And, in anticipation of this, they have erected on every section one house and out houses, in which their employes reside, with the understanding that they have one acre each for a garden, and that at the end of the five years during which they have promised to remain, they shall have the privilege of purchasing from 100 to 200 acres of the land on which they have lived and worked, at its then market value, with easy terms of payment, and with a complete outfit with which to start farming for themselves."

"Do you regard the Bell farm as a good investment?"

"It is evidently very intelligently managed, and such rich land, when fully developed, will bring good prices; and thus I should consider it a good investment."

Part 2 141 kb



"Did you see any other farms?"

"A number of our party stopped off at Regina to see the McIntyre farm, whilst we visited the Bell farm. Those who saw the former expressed themselves as being very much pleased with all they saw."

"Where else did you stop?"

"We made a short stop at Regina, the capital of the Territories and headquarters of the Mounted Police. We also stopped at Moosejaw, near which Captain Reesor, of Ontario, is working a 16,000-acre farm. Moosejaw is a promising infant city of nine months old, with a local paper, doctors, lawyers, and lots of good land in the neighborhood."

THE FUTURE OF CALGARY.

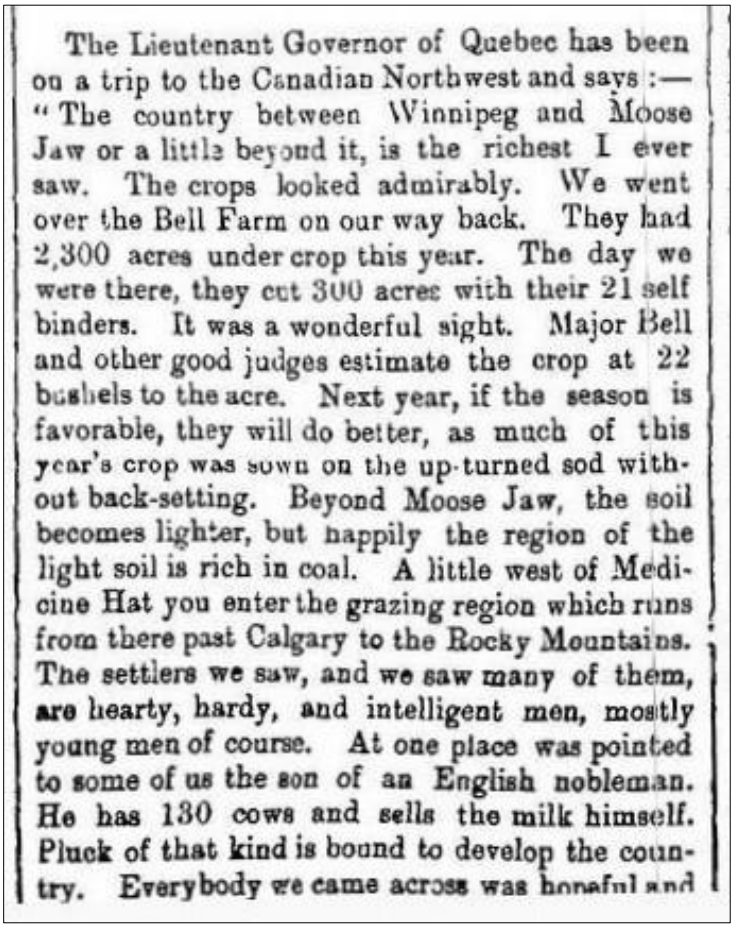
Part 3 127 kb

1883 – Sept. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Mrs. Bell arrives in the West

> "**PERSONAL** . . . . . The wife and family of Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, have arrived from Ontario via Port Arthur. They leave for the West immediately."

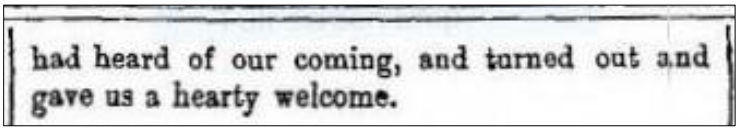
1883 - Sept. 29 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. Stock Exchange Report – same as Aug. 29, 1883

1883 – Sept. 29 – *American Settler*, p.101 - London, Middlesex, U.K. – Bell Farm Report by Lieut. Gov. of Quebec (also published in the *Anglo-American Times*, Oct. 3, 1883, p. 15.)



The Lieutenant Governor of Quebec has been on a trip to the Canadian Northwest and says :— "The country between Winnipeg and Moose Jaw or a little beyond it, is the richest I ever saw. The crops looked admirably. We went over the Bell Farm on our way back. They had 2,300 acres under crop this year. The day we were there, they cut 300 acres with their 21 self binders. It was a wonderful sight. Major Bell and other good judges estimate the crop at 22 bushels to the acre. Next year, if the season is favorable, they will do better, as much of this year's crop was sown on the up-turned sod without back-setting. Beyond Moose Jaw, the soil becomes lighter, but happily the region of the light soil is rich in coal. A little west of Medicine Hat you enter the grazing region which runs from there past Calgary to the Rocky Mountains. The settlers we saw, and we saw many of them, are hearty, hardy, and intelligent men, mostly young men of course. At one place was pointed to some of us the son of an English nobleman. He has 130 cows and sells the milk himself. Pluck of that kind is bound to develop the country. Everybody we came across was hopeful and

117 kb



had heard of our coming, and turned out and gave us a hearty welcome.

28 kb

1883 – Oct. 1 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Train carload of lime shipped from Stonewall to Indian Head.

> "**NORTHWEST NOTES – STONEWALL** - . . . The popularity of Stonewall's lime is becoming widely known throughout the Northwest. A.H. Cook & Co. lately shipped one carload to Indian Head, another to Medicine Hat."

1883 – Oct. 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 - Winnipeg Stock Exchange – same as Aug. 29 and Sept. 29

1883 – Oct. 15 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 - Winnipeg Stock Exchange – same as Aug. 29, Sept. 29, & Oct. 13

1883 – Oct. 17 – Letter from Richards to Bell re: a draft of a new Will for Major Bell

Lawyer Richards (Winnipeg) sends Major Bell a draft new Will. No details beyond the executor: A.S. Hall for W. Sherwood.

1883 – Oct 17 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Bell Farm crop shipped to Ogilvie in Montreal

"**SPARKS FROM THE TELEGRAPH** – The Bell Farming Co. , of Qu'Appelle, have shipped 10,000 bushels of wheat to A.W. Ogilvie & Co. of Montreal, via Fort William."

1883 – Oct. 17 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Bell Farm shares listed on the Montreal Stock Exchange for first time

"**COMMERCIAL NOTES** – The shares of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., commonly known as the Bell Farm, were offered on the Montreal Stock Exchange for the first time on Thursday last, and were in demand at $26."

1883 – Nov. 3 – *Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle* – report from newspaper correspondent Fred J. Francis on tour of Bell Farm

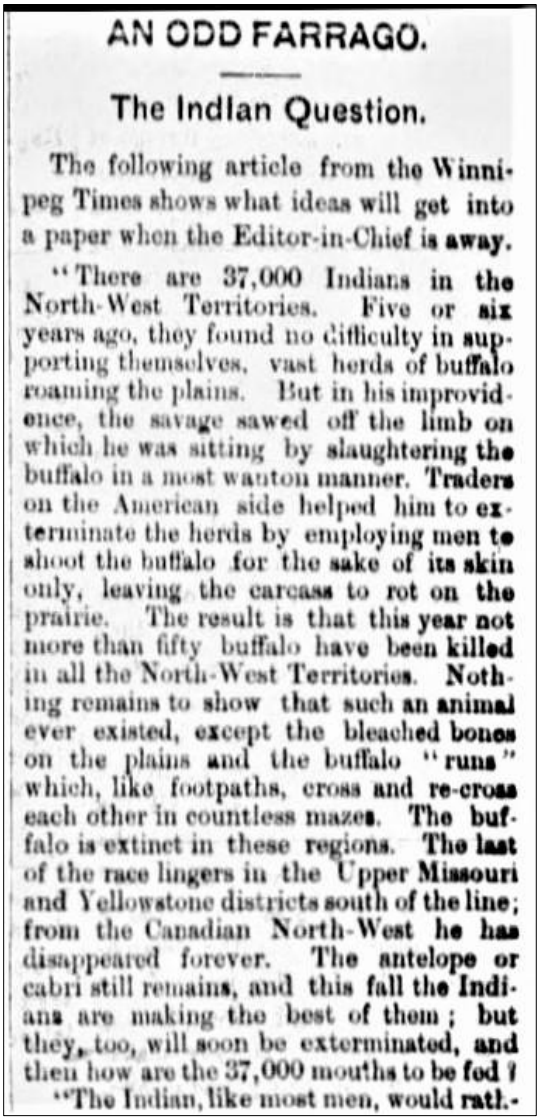
"From Moosomin I passed forward to Indian Head to visit the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company's Farm, commonly known as the Bell Farm, Major Bell being its managing director. I shall only give a resume of its operations, as this year's crops are the first, and sown on the breaking, that is, without having backset or reploughed in the autumn. The farm covers an area of ten square miles. A large substantial stone-built house stands in the centre, quite a treat to look at in the midst of such a timber house country; 120 barns, granaries, cottages, &c., &c., have been built, 100 horses are capitally stabled in a stone round house, 40 head of cattle are kept for merely private use, but they have neither sheep nor pigs. For this year's harvest they have 24 self binders, and next year 60 more will be added, and for the hay nine mowers. One field of wheat of 1200 acres promised remarkably well, but for next year a larger field was being prepared, with a furrow two miles long. For the summer 90 men are employed at average wages of 7£, per month and board. It is intended to build a large elevator at the station next year, and ship grain in bulk to Liverpool direct from the farm. Twenty miles north is the delightful valley of the Qu'Appelle River, with its chain of lakes and picturesque banks, the beauties of which I shall leave for my next letter.

Fort Qu'Appelle
Fred. J. Francis"

1883 – Nov. 8 – *Regina Leader,* p. 2 – Bricks from Indian Head for Regina Court House

"**NEW COURT HOUSE:** Mr. Ewart, of the Public Works Department, has been here looking for a location for the new court house. It will be built of brick and will stand [on] one of the principal streets – Victoria, Alberta or Broad Street. A jail will be attached, also of brick. Then we are to have an asylum, as it is supposed our civilization will so far vindicate its genuineness as to produce an occasional lunatic. The Government, we understand, has came [sic] to the conclusion that timber structures are about the most expensive which can be put up in this country. We can get any amount of brick from Indian Head, and very soon we shall be making brick in Regina. There is a fortune in brick-making here, whoever will have the pluck to seize the opportunity."

1883 – Nov 22 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Major Bell believes some land on Indian Reserves should be rented to farmers



AN ODD FARRAGO.

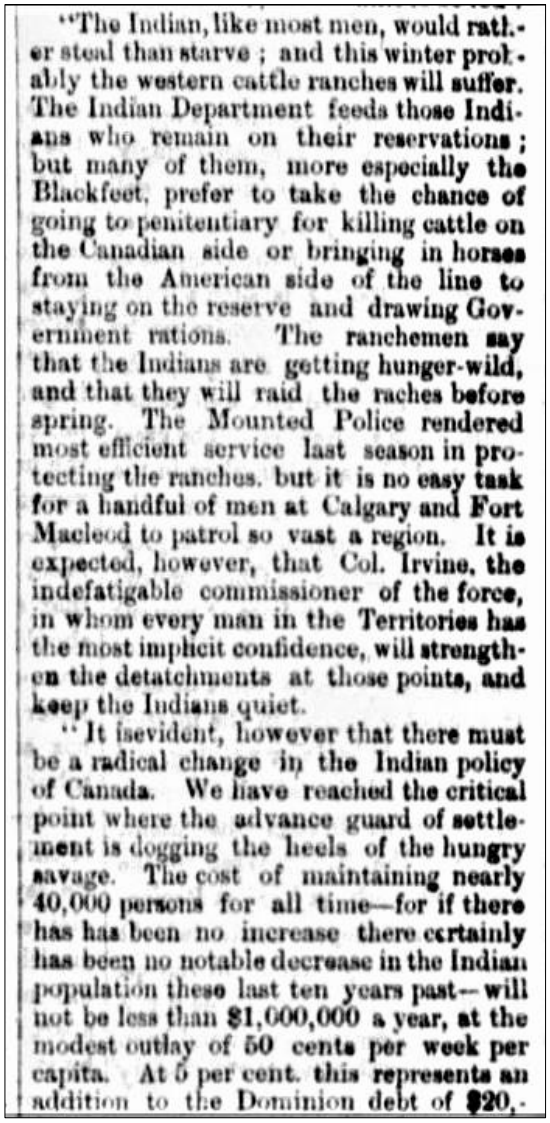
The Indian Question.

The following article from the Winnipeg Times shows what ideas will get into a paper when the Editor-in-Chief is away.

"There are 37,000 Indians in the North-West Territories. Five or six years ago, they found no difficulty in supporting themselves, vast herds of buffalo roaming the plains. But in his improvidence, the savage sawed off the limb on which he was sitting by slaughtering the buffalo in a most wanton manner. Traders on the American side helped him to exterminate the herds by employing men to shoot the buffalo for the sake of its skin only, leaving the carcass to rot on the prairie. The result is that this year not more than fifty buffalo have been killed in all the North-West Territories. Nothing remains to show that such an animal ever existed, except the bleached bones on the plains and the buffalo "runs" which, like footpaths, cross and re-cross each other in countless mazes. The buffalo is extinct in these regions. The last of the race lingers in the Upper Missouri and Yellowstone districts south of the line; from the Canadian North-West he has disappeared forever. The antelope or cabri still remains, and this fall the Indians are making the best of them; but they, too, will soon be exterminated, and then how are the 37,000 mouths to be fed?

"The Indian, like most men, would rather

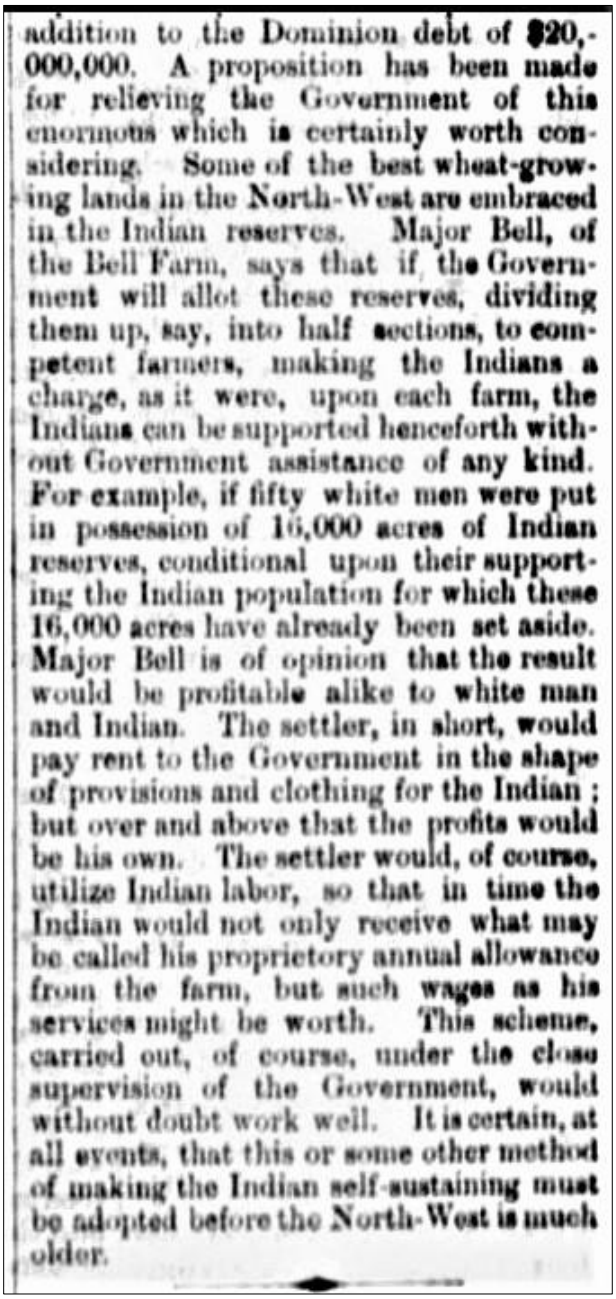
126 kb



"The Indian, like most men, would rather steal than starve; and this winter probably the western cattle ranches will suffer. The Indian Department feeds those Indians who remain on their reservations; but many of them, more especially the Blackfeet, prefer to take the chance of going to penitentiary for killing cattle on the Canadian side or bringing in horses from the American side of the line to staying on the reserve and drawing Government rations. The ranchemen say that the Indians are getting hunger-wild, and that they will raid the raches before spring. The Mounted Police rendered most efficient service last season in protecting the ranches, but it is no easy task for a handful of men at Calgary and Fort Macleod to patrol so vast a region. It is expected, however, that Col. Irvine, the indefatigable commissioner of the force, in whom every man in the Territories has the most implicit confidence, will strengthen the detatchments at those points, and keep the Indians quiet.

"It isevident, however that there must be a radical change in the Indian policy of Canada. We have reached the critical point where the advance guard of settlement is dogging the heels of the hungry savage. The cost of maintaining nearly 40,000 persons for all time—for if there has has been no increase there certainly has been no notable decrease in the Indian population these last ten years past—will not be less than $1,000,000 a year, at the modest outlay of 50 cents per week per capita. At 5 per cent. this represents an addition to the Dominion debt of $20,-

145 kb



addition to the Dominion debt of $20,000,000. A proposition has been made for relieving the Government of this enormous which is certainly worth considering. Some of the best wheat-growing lands in the North-West are embraced in the Indian reserves. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, says that if the Government will allot these reserves, dividing them up, say, into half sections, to competent farmers, making the Indians a charge, as it were, upon each farm, the Indians can be supported henceforth without Government assistance of any kind. For example, if fifty white men were put in possession of 16,000 acres of Indian reserves, conditional upon their supporting the Indian population for which these 16,000 acres have already been set aside. Major Bell is of opinion that the result would be profitable alike to white man and Indian. The settler, in short, would pay rent to the Government in the shape of provisions and clothing for the Indian; but over and above that the profits would be his own. The settler would, of course, utilize Indian labor, so that in time the Indian would not only receive what may be called his proprietory annual allowance from the farm, but such wages as his services might be worth. This scheme, carried out, of course, under the close supervision of the Government, would without doubt work well. It is certain, at all events, that this or some other method of making the Indian self-sustaining must be adopted before the North-West is much older.

133 kb

1883 – Nov. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – William and Mrs. Angus at Bell Farm for a week.

> "CITY AND PROVINCE - Mr. Wm. Angus, brother of the Vice-President of the C.P.R., has gone out west on a tour, accompanied by Mrs. Angus. At Brandon they were shown around by Capt. Wastie, C.P.R. Land Agent. After spending a week at the Bell farm they will proceed to the Rockies. They will not return before the middle of December."

1883 – Nov. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell at the Grand Union Hotel in Winnipeg

> "**PERSONAL –** Messrs. J. Rennie, Glasgow, Scotland; Major Bell, of the Bell farm, and C.J. Gooding, station agent of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway, are guests at the Grand Union."

1883 – Nov. 22 – *Montreal Gazette* – Major Bell's Indian Farm proposal refuted

OUR INDIAN POPULATION.

A suggestion has been made by Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, looking to the reduction of the expense which the maintenance of the Indian population of the Northwest now entails on the country. Some of the best wheat-growing lands in the Northwest are embraced in the Indian reserves, and the proposition is that the Government should allot these reserves, dividing them up, say, into half sections, to competent farmers, making the Indians a charge upon each farm, in which event they can be supported henceforth without Government assistance of any kind. For example, if fifty white men were put in possession of 16,000 acres of Indian reserves, conditional upon their supporting the Indian population for which these 16,000 acres have already been set aside, Major Bell is of opinion that the result would be profitable alike to white man and Indian. The settler, in short, would pay rent to the Government in the shape of provisions and clothing for the Indian; but over and above that, the profits would be his own. The settler would, of course, utilize Indian labour, so that in time the Indian would not only receive what may be called his proprietary annual allowance from the farm, but such wages as his services might be worth.

304 kb

The scheme is a plausible enough one, but we question much whether it could be applied with satisfactory results. The Indians, while supported by the Government, are not disposed to do much for themselves, and if they are assured of support less precarious than that of the Government, it is certain that they will become more indolent than ever. But a weightier objection to Major Bell's scheme is the costliness of the machinery that would be required to operate it. The farmers who undertook to support the Indians in consideration of the gift of their lands, would be naturally disposed to cut the annual stipend or rent below what the Indian considered his due, and interminable disputes would inevitably crop up between the two. It is true our Indian population costs the country a considerable amount of money. A million dollars annually has been required for the purpose for two or three years past, and there is no immediate prospect of economy being introduced. But as settlement progresses, as the country fills up and is brought under cultivation, the Indian will be driven to accept one of two courses, either to become industrious and earn a livelihood, or to retreat to other parts. As to the majority of the forty thousand Indians of the Northwest, they may reasonably be expected to fall into the pursuits of peace and become useful members of the

463 kb

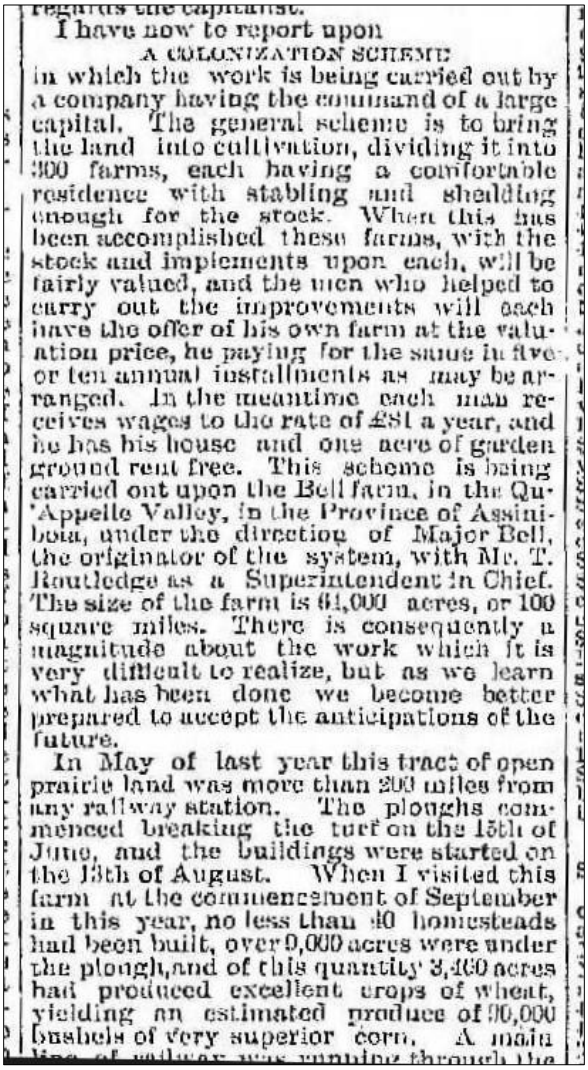
community, as those of Manitoba and of the tribes in older Canada have become since their contact with the white man, and in that expectation it would be injudicious to disturb the existing policy which reserves an adequate quantity of land to the Indians, places agricultural and educational schools within their reach, and gradually prepares them for the mode of life to which they will ere long be compelled by necessity to adapt themselves.

393 kb

1883 – Nov. 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell returns to Indian Head from Winnipeg

"**PERSONAL**: - Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, returned to Indian Head yesterday."

1883 – Nov. 26 - *Manitoba Daily Free Pres*, p. 4 – Bell Farm report



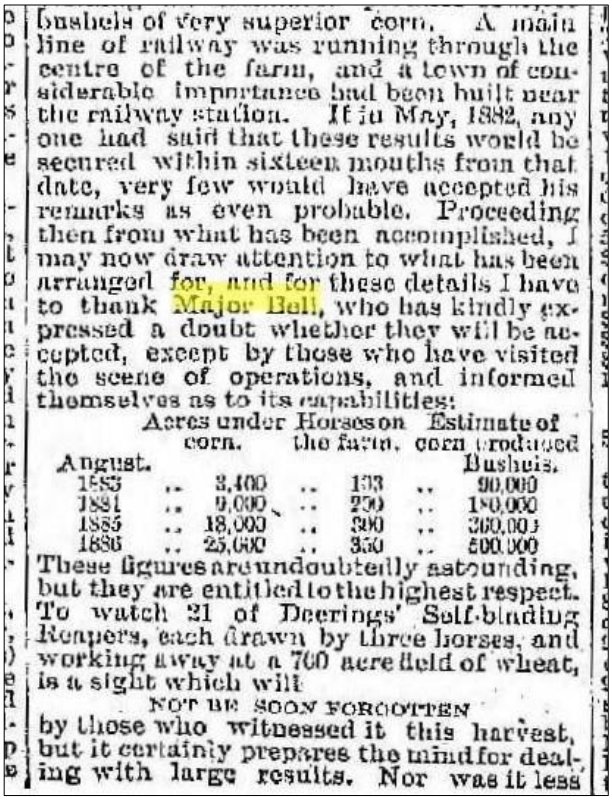
regards the capitalist.

I have now to report upon

A COLONIZATION SCHEME

in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence with stabling and shedding enough for the stock. When this has been accomplished these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at the valuation price, he paying for the same in five or ten annual installments as may be arranged. In the meantime each man receives wages to the rate of £81 a year, and he has his house and one acre of garden ground rent free. This scheme is being carried out upon the Bell farm, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, in the Province of Assiniboia, under the direction of Major Bell, the originator of the system, with Mr. T. Routledge as a Superintendent in Chief. The size of the farm is 61,000 acres, or 100 square miles. There is consequently a magnitude about the work which it is very difficult to realize, but as we learn what has been done we become better prepared to accept the anticipations of the future.

In May of last year this tract of open prairie land was more than 200 miles from any railway station. The ploughs commenced breaking the turf on the 15th of June, and the buildings were started on the 13th of August. When I visited this farm at the commencement of September in this year, no less than 40 homesteads had been built, over 9,000 acres were under the plough, and of this quantity 3,400 acres had produced excellent crops of wheat, yielding an estimated produce of 90,000 bushels of very superior corn. A main



bushels of very superior corn. A main line of railway was running through the centre of the farm, and a town of considerable importance had been built near the railway station. If in May, 1882, any one had said that these results would be secured within sixteen months from that date, very few would have accepted his remarks as even probable. Proceeding then from what has been accomplished, I may now draw attention to what has been arranged for, and for these details I have to thank Major Bell, who has kindly expressed a doubt whether they will be accepted, except by those who have visited the scene of operations, and informed themselves as to its capabilities:

August.	Acres under corn.	Horses on the farm.	Estimate of corn produced Bushels.
1883	3,400	133	90,000
1884	9,000	270	180,000
1885	18,000	300	360,000
1886	25,000	350	500,000

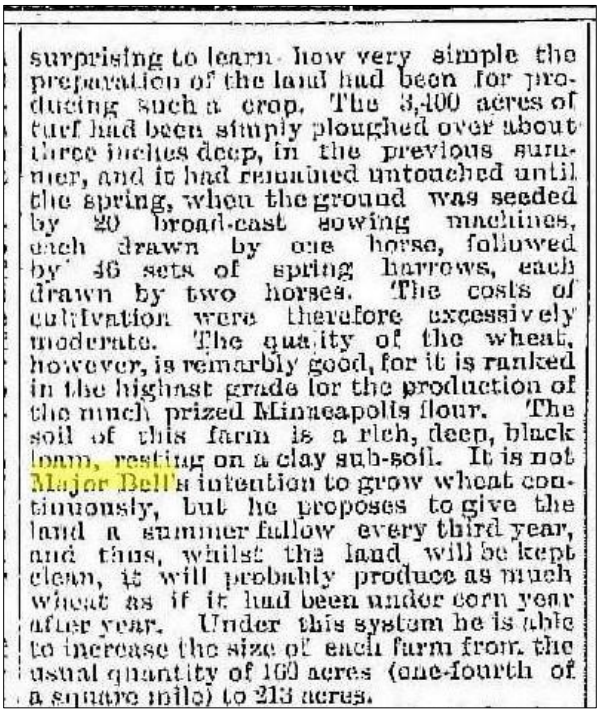
These figures are undoubtedly astounding, but they are entitled to the highest respect. To watch 21 of Deerings' Self-binding Reapers, each drawn by three horses, and working away at a 700 acre field of wheat, is a sight which will

NOT BE SOON FORGOTTEN

by those who witnessed it this harvest, but it certainly prepares the mind for dealing with large results. Nor was it less

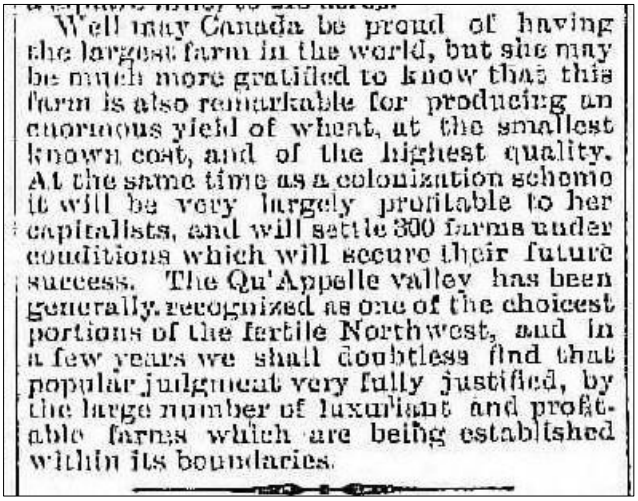
Part 1 209 kb

Part 2 163 kb



surprising to learn how very simple the preparation of the land had been for producing such a crop. The 3,400 acres of turf had been simply ploughed over about three inches deep, in the previous summer, and it had remained untouched until the spring, when the ground was seeded by 20 broad-cast sowing machines, each drawn by one horse, followed by 46 sets of spring harrows, each drawn by two horses. The costs of cultivation were therefore excessively moderate. The quality of the wheat, however, is remarkly good, for it is ranked in the highest grade for the production of the much prized Minneapolis flour. The soil of this farm is a rich, deep, black loam, resting on a clay sub-soil. It is not Major Bell's intention to grow wheat continuously, but he proposes to give the land a summer fallow every third year, and thus, whilst the land will be kept clean, it will probably produce as much wheat as if it had been under corn year after year. Under this system he is able to increase the size of each farm from the usual quantity of 160 acres (one-fourth of a square mile) to 213 acres.

Part 3 167 kb



Well may Canada be proud of having the largest farm in the world, but she may be much more gratified to know that this farm is also remarkable for producing an enormous yield of wheat, at the smallest known cost, and of the highest quality. At the same time as a colonization scheme it will be very largely profitable to her capitalists, and will settle 300 farms under conditions which will secure their future success. The Qu'Appelle valley has been generally recognized as one of the choicest portions of the fertile Northwest, and in a few years we shall doubtless find that popular judgment very fully justified, by the large number of luxuriant and profitable farms which are being established within its boundaries.

Part 4 124 kb

1883 – 30 Nov. – *York Herald* – report from Professor Tanner – similar to what he presented in August.

1883 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

[Frank's Note: As A.J. Osment was closely linked to the Bell Farm's initial establishment, and to brickmaking in the region, law suits relating to Osment are also included in this listing.]

Call Number	SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
R1266 (Microfiche: R16/10)	22	H 01	DC 4/83	W.H. Donaldson V s. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	1883	Start Microfiche R16/10-1
R1266 (Microfiche: R16/10)	44	L 01	DC 31/83	R. Bell Vs. Canadian Pacific Railway	1883	Not sure if R. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else ??????? – As this relates to a cow at Summerberry, I suspect this is not Major W.R. Bell.

1883 – Dec. 1 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Report on Bell Farm harvest in Nov. 1883

> "**CITY AND PROVINCE** – The threshing on the Bell farm is fast approaching completion under the instrumentality of the two steam threshers employed. The frost put a check to ploughing on the 5th of this month. As it is, there are nearly 7,000 acres ready for next spring's seeding. Major Bell is a firm believer in early seeding in this country as the only panacea for September frost. He reports having sold 10,000 bushels of wheat of last year's crop in Montreal at 88 cents, and 13,000 bushels at home for seeding purposes next year at $1.25 per bushel."

1883 – Dec. 8 – *Welsh Flag and Times,* p. 3 – Irish visitors W.J. Williams and D.J. Owen to Bell Farm

> **NOTE:** an extensive article, but all written in Welsh. *Need translation (see also: Sept ___ 1883)*

1883 – Dec. 8 – *North Wales* – General comments on the Bell Farm & value of British pound vs Canadian dollar

> "*Major Bell, of the Bell Farm*, farms 64,000 acres at Indian Head for Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. He came to the district fifteen months ago, and considers £200 capital sufficient. The land on which he is settled is excellent, and yields 25 bushels of wheat to the acre, and 50 bushels of oats. The ploughing season was commenced on April 17th. Labourers are paid 35 dollars (£7) per month in summer, and 28 dollars (£5 12 s) in winter, besides a cottage each, rent free, and an acre of land. Wood is sold to them at cost price. The winter in this part is found to be cold, though healthy. The other periods of the year are also found to be healthy. Sheep, cattle, poultry, do well."

1883 – Dec. 18 – *Glasgow Herald* – Gov. Gen. Lorne's report on the Bell Farm (based on reports provided by others who visited the Bell Farm. Lord Lorne was not at the farm himself.)

> ". . . His Lordship then gave a description of the Bell Farm which has been lately begun near the village of Qu'Appelle. The farm buildings are of stone, and, besides the ordinary accommodation, have blacksmith's shop and other conveniences. The granary, when the harvest had all been ingathered, would contain 30,000 bushels of wheat, weighing 67 lb. to the bushel, and averaging 22 bushels to the acre. The yield of oats would be about 70,000 bushels, and all the product of 3000 acres of land. The stable – which is a circular, airy, stone building – can accommodate 36 horses; while the cattle shed, which is roofed over, is capable of holding 200 head of stock. There are 26 self-binder reaping machines on the farm, 50 sulky ploughs, 2 steam threshing machines, giving employment to 87 men. There are 40 stations on the farm, 90 work horses are owned, and 60 head of milk cows. The farm is ten miles square, and next year 10,000 acres will be put into seed. 10,000 poplar trees are being planted and the company who own the far are cutting 800 tons of wild hay for the use of the stock during the winter. The employees are paid 35 dollars a month, or about £80 a year, and already 250,000 dollars have been expended on the farm. On the farm is the town of Indian Head, containing a population of from 100 to 200; a hotel is being built, and the place is to be laid out and planted by the farm company with shade trees. From this great farm down to the smallest property the same progress is everywhere visible. As for fuel . . . . . ."

1883 – Dec. 22 – 106 Buildings now on the Bell Farm.

> Twenty-seven cottages erected on the Bell Farm since June of 1882. Twenty-two occupied by married men. – (Source: Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 1, p. 12, Letter from J. McD. Gordon, Dec. 22, 1883, Regina)

1883 – Dec. 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major & Mrs. Bell staying in Winnipeg at Grand Union Hotel.

> "**PERSONAL** – Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, and Mrs. Bell, arrived from the West on Saturday night, and are at the Grand Union."

1883 – Dec. 28 –*Daily British Colonist*, Victoria, B.C. p. 4 – Freezing cold halts CPR train east of Indian Head

> **EASTERN CANADA MAIL –** (per steamer – North Pacific) - . . . . . INDIAN HEAD, Manitoba. Dec. 19 – The thermometer is forty degrees below zero.
>
> The passenger train at 1 a.m. on Monday froze up eight miles east of here. The train is still there and the passengers are being kept from starvation by food sent from here in sleighs. No mails are being received or dispatched and there is great discontent among businessmen."

1883 – Dec. 31 – Territorial Appointments: 1875-1883

> Summary: Major Bell among 87 men appointed **Justice of the Peace** for the North-West Territories; three of which lived in Indian Head (James Harvey, Major Bell and Samuel McDonald) since the organization of the NWT until Dec. 31, 1883. Also, 63 men appointed as **Notary Public**, including two men from Indian Head (Thomas Routledge and Samuel Macdonald). And 43 men appointed as **Issuers of Marriage Licences**, include one man from Indian Head (Thomas Routledge).
>
> SOURCE: Annual report for Dept of the Interior, 1883 – Part 4, p. 14-17, Report from Lieut. Gov. Edgar Dewdney on the state of activities in the North-West Territories:

1883 – Dec. 31 – *Sessional Papers* 1884 - No. 14, , Vol 8 , p. 14-85 – Bell Farm crop report

> "Major Bell, of the "Bell Farm", reports the exportation of 10,000 bushels of red fife wheat to Montreal, at 88 cents per bushel, and that 13,000 bushels of the same crop has been distributed over the country, for next year's seed, at $1.25 per bushel."

1884

1884 – January _ – *Annual report for Dept. of the Interior*, 1883 – Report from Lieutenant Governor Edgar Dewdney on the state of activities in the North-West Territories:

"The experience, however, gained this year on the Bell farm, at Indian Head, is evidence of the capabilities of the soil when properly worked, and seed put in at the proper time."

(Source: Canada Sessional Papers 1884, Paper # 12, Part 1, p. 11-12)

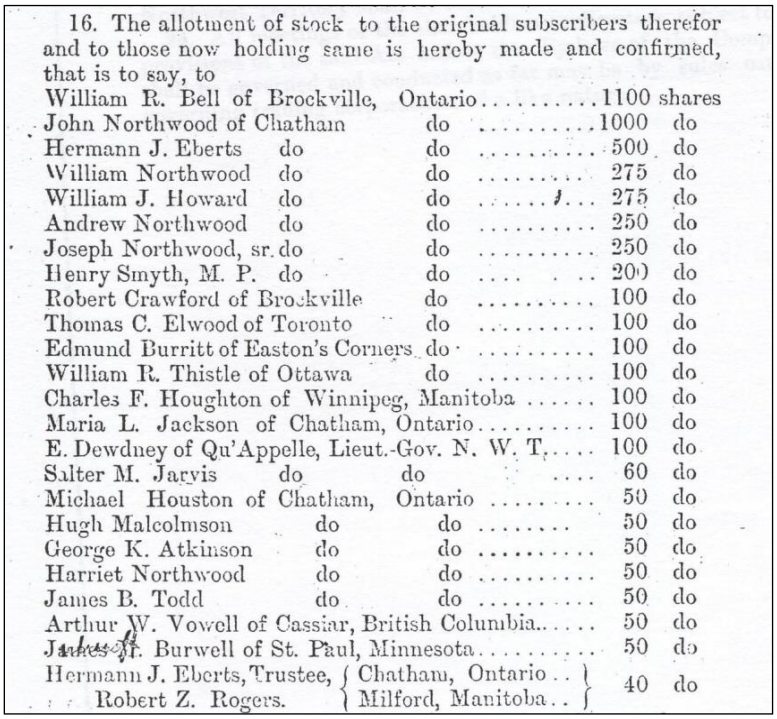
1884 – Jan. 1 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Report on new Presbyterian Church at Indian Head

"**CHURCH BUILDING -** . . . . At Indian Head the people, more ambitious than most of congregations along the line of railway have erected a very fine brick church this year with a seating capacity of fully 300. The Rev. D.M. Ramsay labored there during the summer."

1884 – Jan. 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Report on successful 1883 season at the Bell Farm

"THE NORTH-WEST. The Dominion Land Office in Regina . . . . The Success of the Bell farm disposes of all fears arising out of Summer frosts. During the past season 1,200 acres were sown with wheat, ten hundred with oats, two hundred with potatoes, roots &c. 23,020 bushels of wheat were grown. Of this 21,720 bushels were of the finest quality, and averaged about two pounds per bushel above the standard weight 67 lbs., the balance 1,300 bushels having been slightly frost bitten, though not materially injured for milling purposes. The seed from which the 1,300 bushels were raised was sown on the 1st of May too late to obtain a wet start, and to this cause is attributed the damage by frost. The cost of production is estimated at forty-two cents a bushel. They sold 10,000 bushels to Mr. Ogilvie and got 89c. f.o.b. [freight on board] They sold a good many bushels to farmers around at $1.25 for seed. The roots and potatoes were very fine. We have seen the wheat, it is the very best Scotch fyfe No. 1.

1884 – Jan. 9 - First annual general meeting for the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba – extract of shares:



16. The allotment of stock to the original subscribers therefor and to those now holding same is hereby made and confirmed, that is to say, to

William R. Bell of Brockville,	Ontario	1100	shares
John Northwood of Chatham	do	1000	do
Hermann J. Eberts	do	500	do
William Northwood	do	275	do
William J. Howard	do	275	do
Andrew Northwood	do	250	do
Joseph Northwood, sr.	do	250	do
Henry Smyth, M. P.	do	200	do
Robert Crawford of Brockville	do	100	do
Thomas C. Elwood of Toronto	do	100	do
Edmund Burritt of Easton's Corners	do	100	do
William R. Thistle of Ottawa	do	100	do
Charles F. Houghton of Winnipeg,	Manitoba	100	do
Maria L. Jackson of Chatham,	Ontario	100	do
E. Dewdney of Qu'Appelle, Lieut.-Gov. N. W. T.		100	do
Salter M. Jarvis	do	60	do
Michael Houston of Chatham,	Ontario	50	do
Hugh Malcolmson	do	50	do
George K. Atkinson	do	50	do
Harriet Northwood	do	50	do
James B. Todd	do	50	do
Arthur W. Vowell of Cassiar,	British Columbia	50	do
James H. Burwell of St. Paul,	Minnesota	50	do
Hermann J. Eberts, Trustee, Robert Z. Rogers.	Chatham, Ontario / Milford, Manitoba	40	do

Source: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan

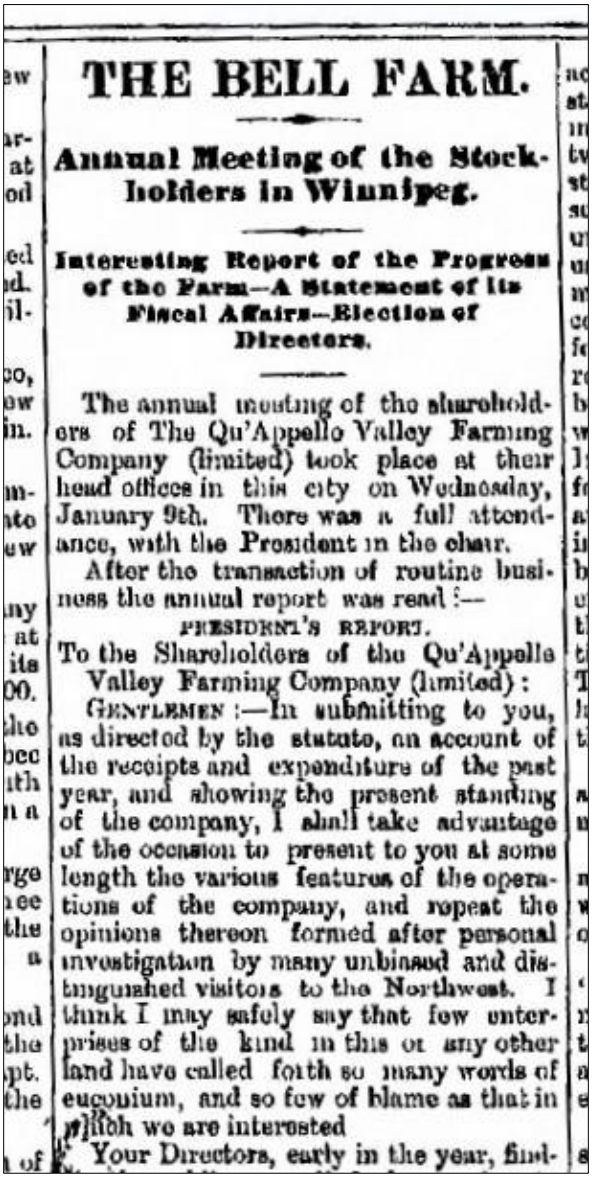
1884 – Jan. 10 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell back from Ottawa trip, stays at Winnipeg's Grand Union Hotel.

> "**PERSONAL** – Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, has returned from Ottawa, and is at the Grand Union."

1884 – Jan. 10 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – new Bell Farm directors chosen at Annual Meeting

> "**CITY AND PROVINCE** . . . . . At the annual meeting of the Bell Farming Company, held yesterday morning, the following directors were chosen: Messrs. A.F. Eden, W.R. Bell, John Northwood, Duncan Macarthur, W.L. Boyle, H.J. Edwards [sic], Governor Dewdney, Thos. Howard and C.G. Kelso."

1884 – Jan. 11 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* – Report on Annual Meeting of QVFC on Jan. 9, 1884 – mentions switch to use of tin on roofs; 24 cottages & stables built to date, at $800 per set; 14 portable round granaries at 1,000 bushels each; reference to building the hotel; re squatters: date for Bell Farm establishment set at 29 April, 1882.



THE BELL FARM.

Annual Meeting of the Stockholders in Winnipeg.

Interesting Report of the Progress of the Farm—A Statement of its Fiscal Affairs—Election of Directors.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited) took place at their head offices in this city on Wednesday, January 9th. There was a full attendance, with the President in the chair.

After the transaction of routine business the annual report was read:—

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

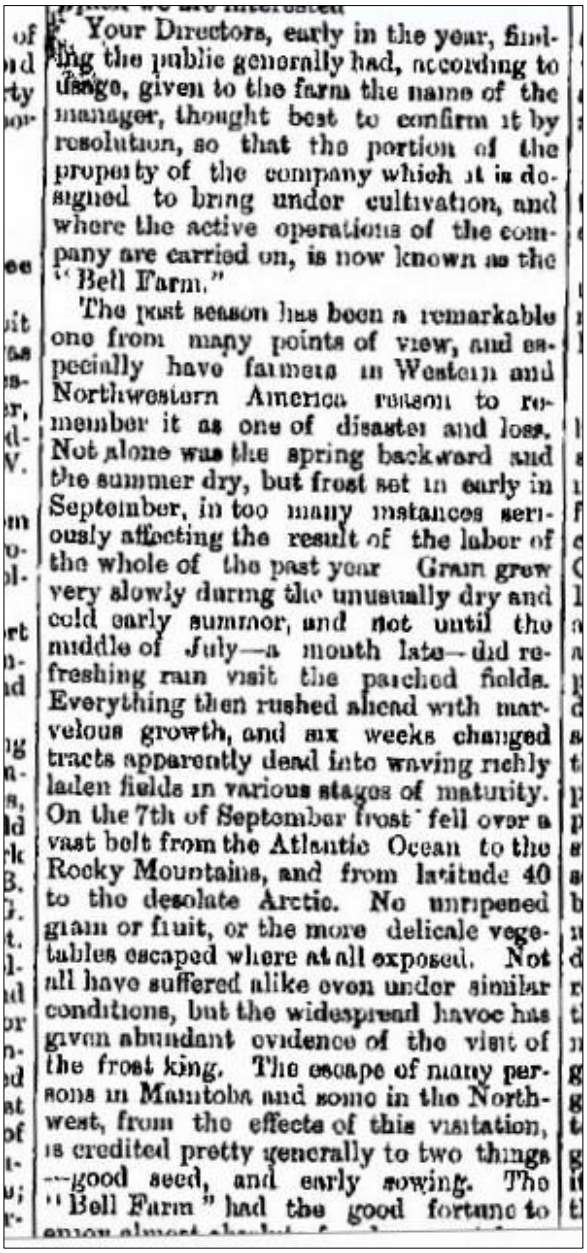
To the Shareholders of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited):

GENTLEMEN:—In submitting to you, as directed by the statute, an account of the receipts and expenditure of the past year, and showing the present standing of the company, I shall take advantage of the occasion to present to you at some length the various features of the operations of the company, and repeat the opinions thereon formed after personal investigation by many unbiased and distinguished visitors to the Northwest. I think I may safely say that few enterprises of the kind in this or any other land have called forth so many words of eucomium, and so few of blame as that in which we are interested

Your Directors, early in the year, finding the public generally had, according to usage, given to the farm the name of the manager, thought best to confirm it by resolution, so that the portion of the property of the company which it is designed to bring under cultivation, and where the active operations of the company are carried on, is now known as the "Bell Farm."

The past season has been a remarkable one from many points of view, and especially have farmers in Western and Northwestern America reason to remember it as one of disaster and loss. Not alone was the spring backward and the summer dry, but frost set in early in September, in too many instances seriously affecting the result of the labor of the whole of the past year. Grain grew very slowly during the unusually dry and cold early summer, and not until the middle of July—a month late—did refreshing rain visit the parched fields. Everything then rushed ahead with marvelous growth, and six weeks changed tracts apparently dead into waving richly laden fields in various stages of maturity. On the 7th of September frost fell over a vast belt from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains, and from latitude 40 to the desolate Arctic. No unripened grain or fruit, or the more delicate vegetables escaped where at all exposed. Not all have suffered alike even under similar conditions, but the widespread havoc has given abundant evidence of the visit of the frost king. The escape of many persons in Manitoba and some in the Northwest, from the effects of this visitation, is credited pretty generally to two things —good seed, and early sowing. The "Bell Farm" had the good fortune to

Part 1 of 10: 129 kb

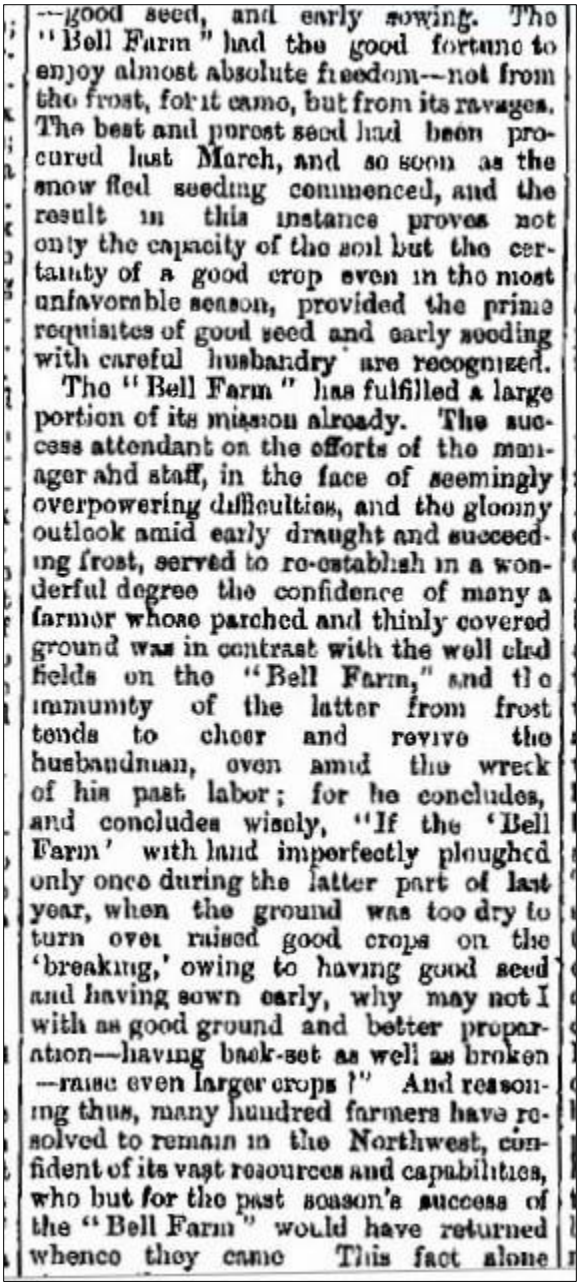


Your Directors, early in the year, finding the public generally had, according to usage, given to the farm the name of the manager, thought best to confirm it by resolution, so that the portion of the property of the company which it is designed to bring under cultivation, and where the active operations of the company are carried on, is now known as the "Bell Farm."

The past season has been a remarkable one from many points of view, and especially have farmers in Western and Northwestern America reason to remember it as one of disaster and loss. Not alone was the spring backward and the summer dry, but frost set in early in September, in too many instances seriously affecting the result of the labor of the whole of the past year. Grain grew very slowly during the unusually dry and cold early summer, and not until the middle of July—a month late—did refreshing rain visit the parched fields. Everything then rushed ahead with marvelous growth, and six weeks changed tracts apparently dead into waving richly laden fields in various stages of maturity. On the 7th of September frost fell over a vast belt from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains, and from latitude 40 to the desolate Arctic. No unripened grain or fruit, or the more delicate vegetables escaped where at all exposed. Not all have suffered alike even under similar conditions, but the widespread havoc has given abundant evidence of the visit of the frost king. The escape of many persons in Manitoba and some in the Northwest, from the effects of this visitation, is credited pretty generally to two things —good seed, and early sowing. The "Bell Farm" had the good fortune to

Part 2 of 10: 146 kb – Sept. 7 frost

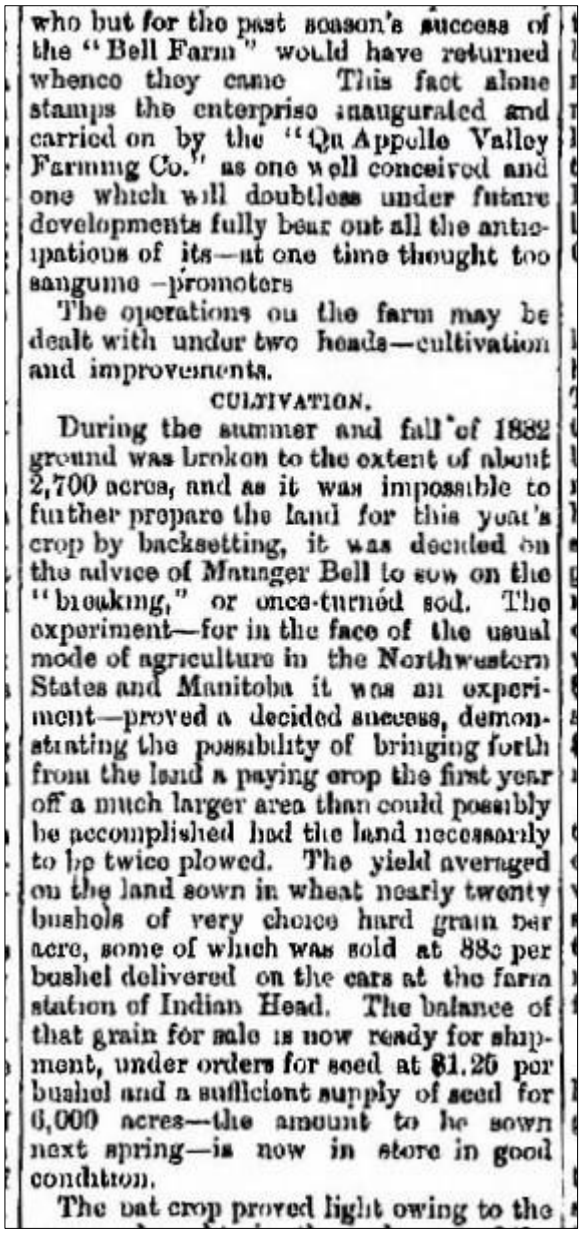
[Note: the reference to frost across North America on Sept 7, 1883 was later discovered to have been the result of the Krakatoa volcanic eruption that spewed massive volumes of ash into the atmosphere, affecting plant growth around the world.: "The 1883 eruption of Krakatoa (Indonesian: Letusan Krakatau 1883) in the Sunda Strait occurred from **20 May-21 October 1883**, peaking in the late morning hours of 27 August when over 70% of the island of Krakatoa and its surrounding archipelago were destroyed as it collapsed into a caldera." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1883_eruption_of_Krakatoa]



—good seed, and early sowing. The "Bell Farm" had the good fortune to enjoy almost absolute freedom—not from the frost, for it came, but from its ravages. The best and purest seed had been procured last March, and so soon as the snow fled seeding commenced, and the result in this instance proves not only the capacity of the soil but the certainty of a good crop even in the most unfavorable season, provided the prime requisites of good seed and early seeding with careful husbandry are recognized.

The "Bell Farm" has fulfilled a large portion of its mission already. The success attendant on the efforts of the manager and staff, in the face of seemingly overpowering difficulties, and the gloomy outlook amid early draught and succeeding frost, served to re-establish in a wonderful degree the confidence of many a farmer whose parched and thinly covered ground was in contrast with the well tilled fields on the "Bell Farm," and the immunity of the latter from frost tends to cheer and revive the husbandman, even amid the wreck of his past labor; for he concludes, and concludes wisely, "If the 'Bell Farm' with land imperfectly ploughed only once during the latter part of last year, when the ground was too dry to turn over raised good crops on the 'breaking,' owing to having good seed and having sown early, why may not I with as good ground and better preparation—having back-set as well as broken—raise even larger crops?" And reasoning thus, many hundred farmers have resolved to remain in the Northwest, confident of its vast resources and capabilities, who but for the past season's success of the "Bell Farm" would have returned whence they came This fact alone

Part 3 of 10: 144 kb



who but for the past season's success of the "Bell Farm" would have returned whence they came This fact alone stamps the enterprise inaugurated and carried on by the "Qu Appelle Valley Farming Co." as one well conceived and one which will doubtless under future developments fully bear out all the anticipations of its—at one time thought too sanguine—promoters

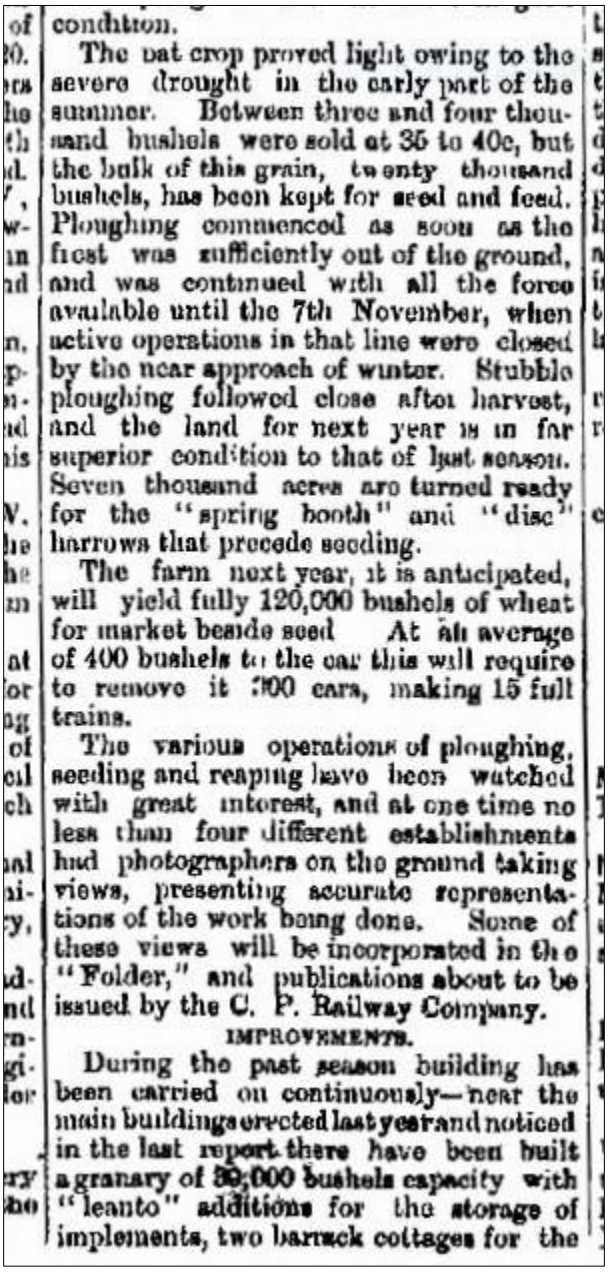
The operations on the farm may be dealt with under two heads—cultivation and improvements.

CULTIVATION.

During the summer and fall of 1882 ground was broken to the extent of about 2,700 acres, and as it was impossible to further prepare the land for this year's crop by backsetting, it was decided on the advice of Manager Bell to sow on the "breaking," or once-turned sod. The experiment—for in the face of the usual mode of agriculture in the Northwestern States and Manitoba it was an experiment—proved a decided success, demonstrating the possibility of bringing forth from the land a paying crop the first year off a much larger area than could possibly be accomplished had the land necessarily to be twice plowed. The yield averaged on the land sown in wheat nearly twenty bushels of very choice hard grain per acre, some of which was sold at 88c per bushel delivered on the cars at the farm station of Indian Head. The balance of that grain for sale is now ready for shipment, under orders for seed at $1.25 per bushel and a sufficient supply of seed for 6,000 acres—the amount to be sown next spring—is now in store in good condition.

The oat crop proved light owing to the

Part 4 of 10: 136 kb



condition.

The oat crop proved light owing to the severe drought in the early part of the summer. Between three and four thousand bushels were sold at 35 to 40c, but the bulk of this grain, twenty thousand bushels, has been kept for seed and feed. Ploughing commenced as soon as the frost was sufficiently out of the ground, and was continued with all the force available until the 7th November, when active operations in that line were closed by the near approach of winter. Stubble ploughing followed close after harvest, and the land for next year is in far superior condition to that of last season. Seven thousand acres are turned ready for the "spring booth" and "disc" harrows that precede seeding.

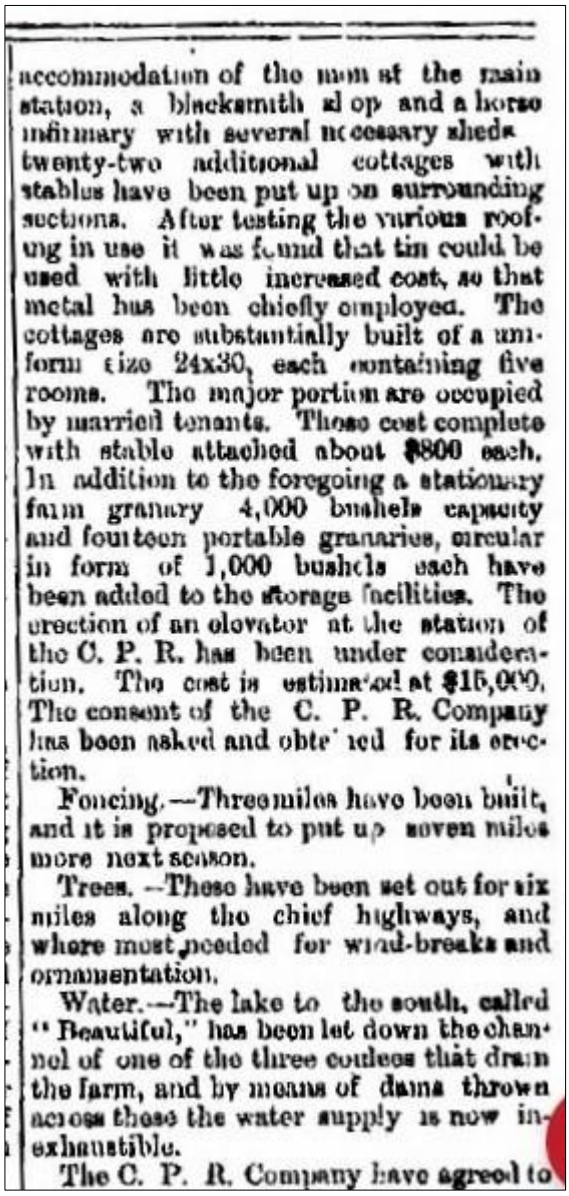
The farm next year, it is anticipated, will yield fully 120,000 bushels of wheat for market beside seed At an average of 400 bushels to the car this will require to remove it 300 cars, making 15 full trains.

The various operations of ploughing, seeding and reaping have been watched with great interest, and at one time no less than four different establishments had photographers on the ground taking views, presenting accurate representations of the work being done. Some of these views will be incorporated in the "Folder," and publications about to be issued by the C. P. Railway Company.

IMPROVEMENTS.

During the past season building has been carried on continuously—near the main buildings erected last year and noticed in the last report there have been built a granary of 30,000 bushels capacity with "leanto" additions for the storage of implements, two barrack cottages for the

Part 5 of 10: 144 kb



accommodation of the men at the main station, a blacksmith shop and a horse infirmary with several necessary sheds twenty-two additional cottages with stables have been put up on surrounding sections. After testing the various roofing in use it was found that tin could be used with little increased cost, so that metal has been chiefly employed. The cottages are substantially built of a uniform size 24x30, each containing five rooms. The major portion are occupied by married tenants. These cost complete with stable attached about $800 each. In addition to the foregoing a stationary farm granary 4,000 bushels capacity and fourteen portable granaries, circular in form of 1,000 bushels each have been added to the storage facilities. The erection of an elevator at the station of the C. P. R. has been under consideration. The cost is estimated at $15,000. The consent of the C. P. R. Company has been asked and obtained for its erection.

Fencing.—Three miles have been built, and it is proposed to put up seven miles more next season.

Trees.—These have been set out for six miles along the chief highways, and where most needed for wind-breaks and ornamentation.

Water.—The lake to the south, called "Beautiful," has been let down the channel of one of the three coulees that drain the farm, and by means of dams thrown across these the water supply is now inexhaustible.

The C. P. R. Company have agreed to

Part 6 of 10: 124 kb

exhaustible.

The C. P. R. Company have agreed to share the expense of this work. Spring water of excellent quality has been struck at the main house and other stations at a depth of thirty-five feet.

Bridges.—In addition to the excellent roadways formed by the dams across the coulee's substantial bridges have been erected.

The full supply on the company's lands is amply sufficient for all wants, and the near prospect of cheap coal removes any lingering anxiety on this head.

TOWN SITE

Although the question of a town site had not formed part of the original scheme, yet the advantage of establishing a centre where the mechanic or professional man could find a home soon became apparent. The situation when the C. P. Ry. has established the station of Indian Head being a very eligible one and possessing those prime requisites to a town absolutely necessary to certain progress, viz.: good water and good drainage, to secute these advantages, section 24, 18, 13 was purchased from the Government without conditions and a patent granted to the company. The plot has been laid out by a competent surveyor and a number of lots have been sold. Several first-class brick and frame buildings have already been erected, the main street graded and the town of Indian Head is an accomplished fact. The removal thereto of the Indian office for the district and the improvement of the northern and other trails leading into it gives assurance of steady and continued growth. Anticipating a flood of visitors to the farm at all seasons and believing a good hotel would be almost a pre-requisite to the succesful start of the town, the board of directors determined to build

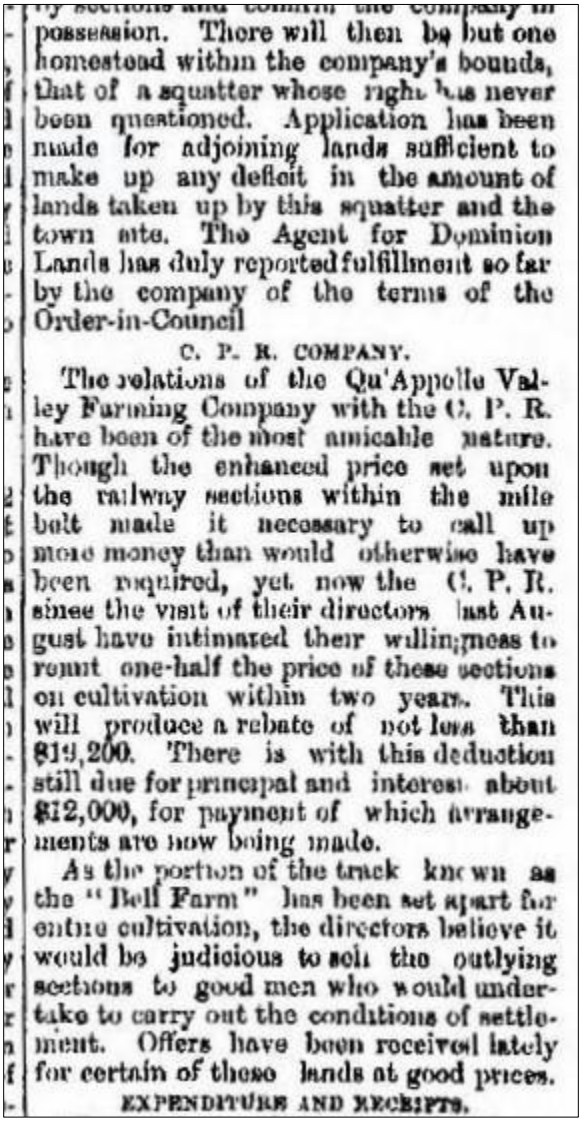
Part 7 of 10: 137 kb

ite to the succesful start of the town, the board of directors determined to build such an hotel as, while accomplishing the object of accommodating the public, might conveniently be turned into a students house in direct connection with the farm. The building is ready for use, but owing to the late season at which it was finished no eligible tenant could be secured, but the Board believe that the spring will find it opened with excellent prospects and that it will accomplish fully the original aim of its construction.

SQUATTERS.

This question was supposed to have been finally settled last February, when notices were served by the Government Agent on the various intruders, and the date of the company's possession was, after evidence taken, fixed as the 29th of April, 1882. Interested parties, backed by political influence, had the question of date re-opened, and a reference was had to the Land Commissioner in Winnipeg, to finally determine the matter. After an exhaustive enquiry, made on the spot, the Commissioner confirmed the date before mentioned, and the Government have finally adopted that day, and have again notified all parties accordingly. Three of the parties whose claims had some merit have been bought off, and though it may be requisite to take proceedings in one or two instances, yet the question may be considered as about closed. The Agent of the Dominion's Lands has been ordered to proceed at once to the tract and designate the lands by sections and confirm the company in possession. There will then be but one homestead within the company's bounds,

Part 8 of 10: 132 kb



possession. There will then be but one homestead within the company's bounds, that of a squatter whose right has never been questioned. Application has been made for adjoining lands sufficient to make up any deficit in the amount of lands taken up by this squatter and the town site. The Agent for Dominion Lands has duly reported fulfillment so far by the company of the terms of the Order-in-Council

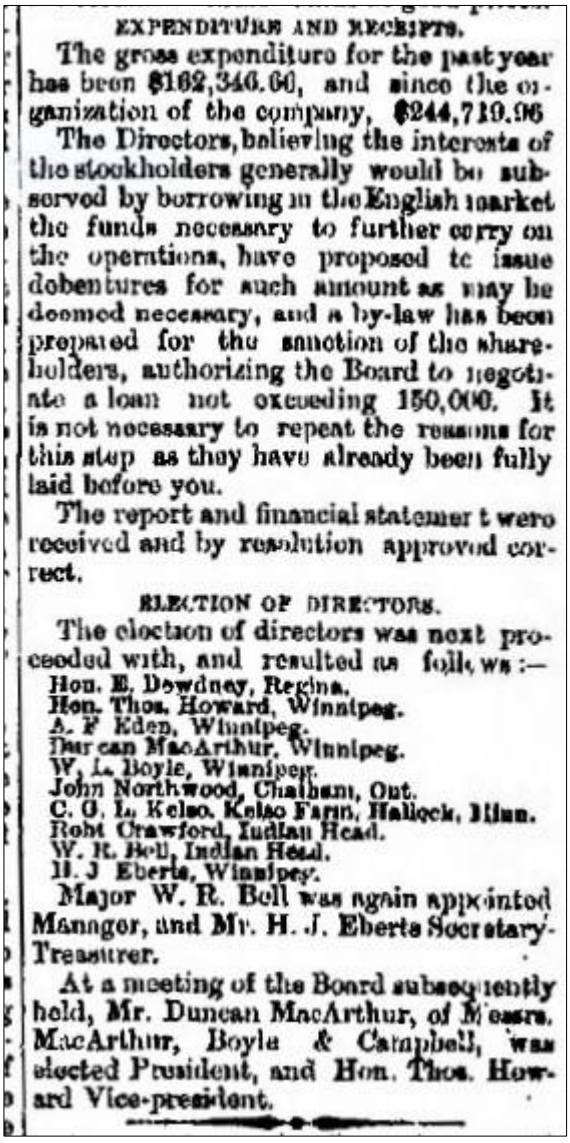
C. P. R. COMPANY.

The relations of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company with the C. P. R. have been of the most amicable nature. Though the enhanced price set upon the railway sections within the mile belt made it necessary to call up more money than would otherwise have been required, yet now the C. P. R. since the visit of their directors last August have intimated their willingness to remit one-half the price of these sections on cultivation within two years. This will produce a rebate of not less than $19,200. There is with this deduction still due for principal and interest about $12,000, for payment of which arrangements are now being made.

As the portion of the track known as the "Bell Farm" has been set apart for entire cultivation, the directors believe it would be judicious to sell the outlying sections to good men who would undertake to carry out the conditions of settlement. Offers have been received lately for certain of these lands at good prices.

EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

Part 9 of 10: 121 kb



EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS.

The gross expenditure for the past year has been $162,346.60, and since the organization of the company, $244,719.96

The Directors, believing the interests of the stockholders generally would be subserved by borrowing in the English market the funds necessary to further carry on the operations, have proposed to issue debentures for such amount as may be deemed necessary, and a by-law has been prepared for the sanction of the shareholders, authorizing the Board to negotiate a loan not exceeding 150,000. It is not necessary to repeat the reasons for this step as they have already been fully laid before you.

The report and financial statement were received and by resolution approved correct.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

The election of directors was next proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—

Hon. E. Dewdney, Regina.
Hon. Thos. Howard, Winnipeg.
A. F. Eden, Winnipeg.
Duncan MacArthur, Winnipeg.
W. L. Boyle, Winnipeg.
John Northwood, Chatham, Ont.
C. G. L. Kelso, Kelso Farm, Hallock, Minn.
Robt Crawford, Indian Head.
W. R. Bell, Indian Head.
H. J. Eberts, Winnipeg.

Major W. R. Bell was again appointed Manager, and Mr. H. J. Eberts Secretary-Treasurer.

At a meeting of the Board subsequently held, Mr. Duncan MacArthur, of Messrs. MacArthur, Boyle & Campbell, was elected President, and Hon. Thos. Howard Vice-president.

Part 10 of 10: 119 kb

1884 – Jan. 15 – *The Commercial, Winnipeg* ,p. 308 – "Farmers' Complaints - no frost damage at the Bell Farm

"That we will have year after year a succession of such misinformation it is supreme folly to anticipate, notwithstanding the predictions and omniscient pretensions of political demagogues; and we have a good guarantee that such a combination will not again occur in the fact that a very large proportion of the evils can be prevented by precautions on the part of the farmers themselves. The frozen wheat difficulty can at least be avoided as is witnessed by the results of the Bell farm crop this year, where not a bushel of wheat sown in proper season was in any way injured. That all the frozen wheat of the country however is the result of carelessness it would be unjust as well as foolish to assert. Wheat raising, and farming of every description on a large scale is as yet considerable of an experiment in the Northwest, and farmer like all people have to learn, and their education has been rather costly during the year now closed."

1884 – Jan. 17 – *Regina Leader*- p. 2 – Report on Annual Bell Farm Financial Report for 1883

THE BELL FARM.

We called attention a few days ago to the admirable crop raised by the Bell Farm and we have recently been assured by some gentlemen from the vicinity that the individual settlers have grown as good and in some cases even better crops than Major Bell. But the Bell Farm crops bring the grain-bearing qualities of the soil in a striking way before the public mind and cannot fail to do great good. It settles the questson whether large crops of grain can or cannot be grown here.

The report of Mr. Dewdney, President, r a l at the annual meeting in Winnipeg is a clear statement of the company's affairs. During the summer and fall of 1882 ground was broken to the extent of 2,700 acres and seed was sown last year on the breaking. The experiment was a success, the yield in wheat averaging twenty bushels to the acre which was sold at 88c. per bushel. The balance of the grain is under order for seed at $1.25 per bushel, and a sufficient supply of seed for 6,000 acres—the amount to besown next Spring—is now in store in good condition. It is anticipated that the farm next year will yield fully 120,000 bushels of wheat for market next year. At an average of 400 bushels to the car this will require to remove it 300 cars, or 15 full trains.

During the past year a granary of 30,000 bushels capacity has been built, with a "leanto" additions for the storage of implements, two barrack cottages for the accommodation of the men at the main station, a blacksmith's shop and a horse infirmary and twenty-two additional cottages with stables. These cottages are substantially built and with stables cost about $800 each. In addition to the foregoing a stationary farm granary 4,000 bushels capacity and fourteen portable granaries, circular in form of 1,000 bushels each have been added to the storage facilities. The erection of an elevator at the station of the C. P. R. has been under consideration. The cost is estimated at $15,000. Besides this fencing, trees, water and bridges have all been attended to on an ambitious scale. The gross expenditure for the year was $162,346.66. Since the organization of the company the sum of $214,719.96 has been spent. Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney is one of the directors and Messrs. Duncan MacArthur and Thos. Howard are respectively president and vice-president.

1884 – Jan. 19 – *Edmonton Bulletin* – report on 1883 harvest

> "The Bell Farm at Indian Head reports the perfect maturity of the wheat before frost."

1884 – 19 Jan – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Dewdney reports on Bell Farm 1883 crop

> "Lieut-governor Dewdney, president of the Bell farming company, reports the operations on the farm at Indian Head for 1883 as follows: Two thousand seven hundred acres was broken and cropped, the crop averaging 20 bushels to the acre on sod. The company expects to have 6,000 acres under crop and a yield of 120,000 bushels of wheat during the coming year."

1884 – Feb – *Presbyterian Record*, p., 42 : new brick church built at Indian Head in 1883

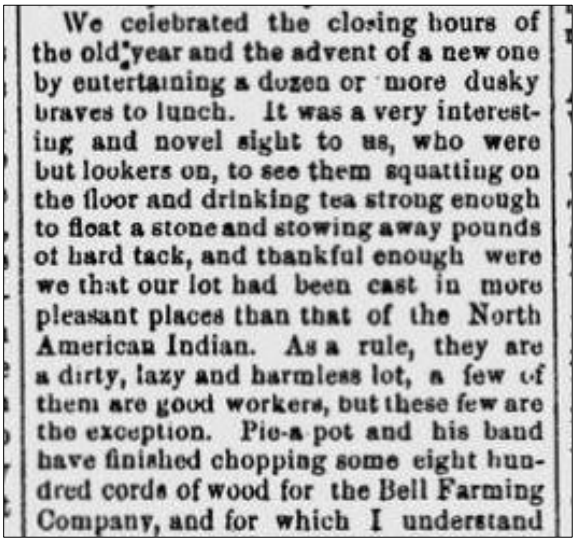
> "**Manitoba and the Northwest: . . .** The people at Indian Head, more ambitious than most of congregations along the line of railway, have erected a very fine brick church this year with a seating capacity of fully 300. The Rev. D.M. Ramsay laboured there this summer."

1884 – Feb. 8 – *Sherbrooke Weekly Examiner:* crop comments, based on Jan. 31, 1884 report

> "Hard times are beginning to dawn upon us as with you in the Eastern Provinces. The partial failure of the wheat crop, occasioned by early frosts and the exceedingly low price of oats, (which are now selling from 10cts to 25 cts a bushel, according to locality) are the main cause of the tightness of money. The Bell Farming Company raised large quantities of good seed wheat and also no small amount of the frozen article. The former is being sold to farmers for seed. The Red Fyfe variety is the favourite one with millers, and consequently the most grown. Angus McKay who resides here, raised on ten acres of land 446 bushels of this variety, all No. 1, from eighteen bushels of wheat sown. Should this season's crop be a good one, thousands of bushels of wheat will be exported in the fall, as an immense tract of land has been prepared for spring seeding. I have just as much faith in the great and glorious future of this country as I have ever had, but have none in the Ottawa Government and very little in such enterprises as the Bell Farming Company ever carrying out their gigantic schemes to a successful issue, and excepting for the loss which would naturally occur to the shareholders, would not be sorry to have them collapse.
>
> B. Indian Head N.W.T. Jan. 31st, 1884"

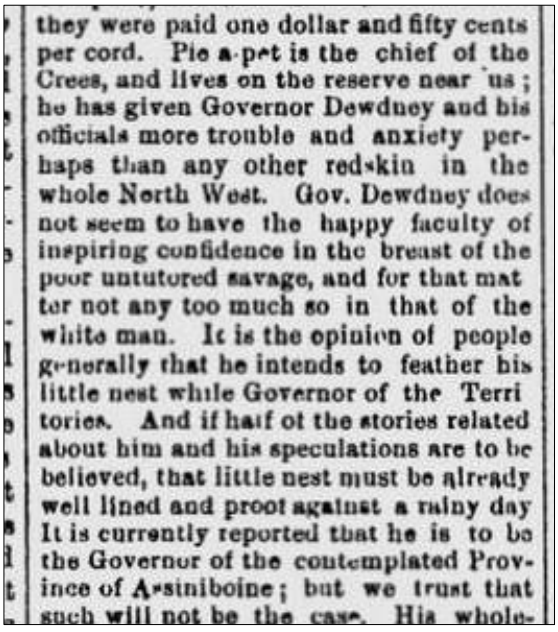
1884 – Feb. 8 – *Sherbrooke Weekly Examiner*: - Piapot community cutting wood for Bell Farm

The news article below "Communications" has a few Bell Farm references - a not so good opinion of the operation but also mentions Chief Pie-a-Pot and band chopping 800 cords of wood for the Bell Farm.



We celebrated the closing hours of the old year and the advent of a new one by entertaining a dozen or more dusky braves to lunch. It was a very interesting and novel sight to us, who were but lookers on, to see them squatting on the floor and drinking tea strong enough to float a stone and stowing away pounds of hard tack, and thankful enough were we that our lot had been cast in more pleasant places than that of the North American Indian. As a rule, they are a dirty, lazy and harmless lot, a few of them are good workers, but these few are the exception. Pie-a pot and his band have finished chopping some eight hundred cords of wood for the Bell Farming Company, and for which I understand

Part 1 75 kb



they were paid one dollar and fifty cents per cord. Pie a-pot is the chief of the Crees, and lives on the reserve near us; he has given Governor Dewdney and his officials more trouble and anxiety perhaps than any other redskin in the whole North West. Gov. Dewdney does not seem to have the happy faculty of inspiring confidence in the breast of the poor untutored savage, and for that matter not any too much so in that of the white man. It is the opinion of people generally that he intends to feather his little nest while Governor of the Territories. And if half of the stories related about him and his speculations are to be believed, that little nest must be already well lined and proof against a rainy day It is currently reported that he is to be the Governor of the contemplated Province of Assiniboine; but we trust that such will not be the case. His whole-

Part 2 84 kb

1884 – Feb. 12 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 -Squatters issue goes to arbitration – Dr. Orton

> "A private telegram was received in the city yesterday from Dr. Orton, M.P., to the effect that the difficulties existing between the settlers located on the lands of the Bell Farming Company and the Company will be referred to arbitration by mutual agreement."

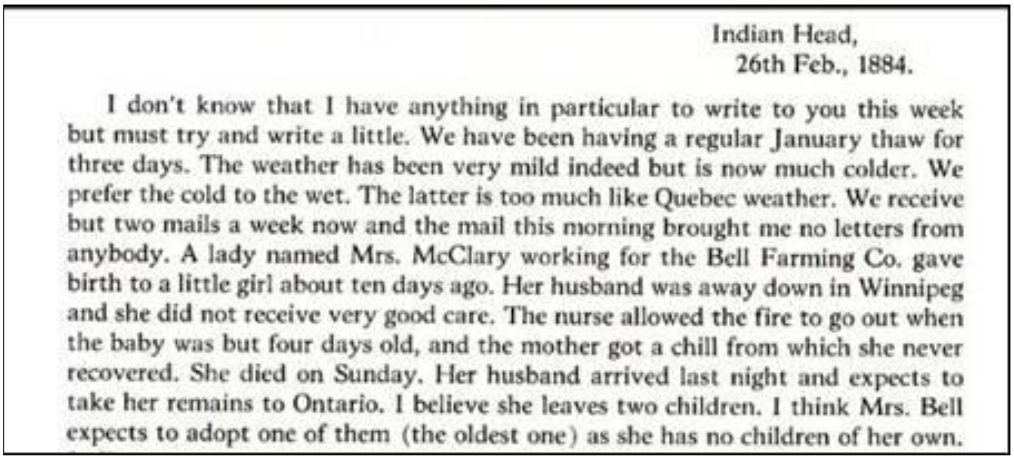
1884 – Feb. 21 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Bell Farm Reaches Agreement with the Squatters

> "**THE BELL FARM V. THE SQUATTERS**. Mr. T.C Johnstone of Regina the solicitor of the Squatters on the Bell Farm who is now at Ottawa has succeeded in making a satisfactory arrangement on behalf of his clients. An agreement has been signed at the Capital embodying the terms of the settlement, the squatters are to vacate the lands they now hold and are to receive from the Company in cash the value of their interest in the same including their improvements such value to be determined by arbitration, the squatters are to be provided with homesteads and pre-emptions elsewhere and are to be entitled to a patent after one years (sic) residence instead of the usual period of 3 years. The squatters also obtain other advantages but these appear to be the main features of the agreement."

1884 – Feb. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Squatters Rights arbitration

> "**THE CAPITAL** [Ottawa] **– Squatters Rights.** Mr. T.C. Johnstone, of Regina, who has been here for some time in the interests of the Bell farm squatters, has had the matter referred to arbitration. The arbitrators are Geo. Taylor and John F. Wood, M.P. The squatters who come within this arrangement will in any event be paid for their improvements and time, and will be allowed two years residence in obtaining the patents of any homestead."

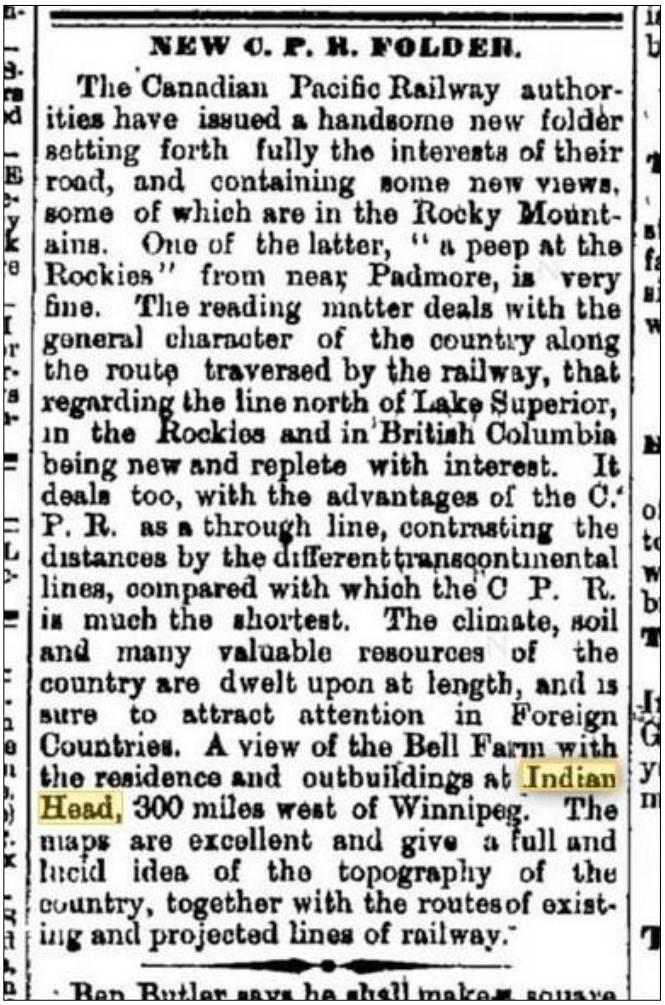
1884 – Feb. 26 – Edwin Brooks reports in letter on birth of the McClary girl on the Bell Farm, and death of Mrs. McClary; and speculation that the Bells might adopt the oldest of the McClary children



Indian Head,
26th Feb., 1884.

I don't know that I have anything in particular to write to you this week but must try and write a little. We have been having a regular January thaw for three days. The weather has been very mild indeed but is now much colder. We prefer the cold to the wet. The latter is too much like Quebec weather. We receive but two mails a week now and the mail this morning brought me no letters from anybody. A lady named Mrs. McClary working for the Bell Farming Co. gave birth to a little girl about ten days ago. Her husband was away down in Winnipeg and she did not receive very good care. The nurse allowed the fire to go out when the baby was but four days old, and the mother got a chill from which she never recovered. She died on Sunday. Her husband arrived last night and expects to take her remains to Ontario. I believe she leaves two children. I think Mrs. Bell expects to adopt one of them (the oldest one) as she has no children of her own.

1884 – March 11 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. – Bell Farm featured in CPR Folder



NEW C. P. R. FOLDER.

The Canadian Pacific Railway authorities have issued a handsome new folder setting forth fully the interests of their road, and containing some new views, some of which are in the Rocky Mountains. One of the latter, "a peep at the Rockies" from near Padmore, is very fine. The reading matter deals with the general character of the country along the route traversed by the railway, that regarding the line north of Lake Superior, in the Rockies and in British Columbia being new and replete with interest. It deals too, with the advantages of the C. P. R. as a through line, contrasting the distances by the different transcontinental lines, compared with which the C P. R. is much the shortest. The climate, soil and many valuable resources of the country are dwelt upon at length, and is sure to attract attention in Foreign Countries. A view of the Bell Farm with the residence and outbuildings at Indian Head, 300 miles west of Winnipeg. The maps are excellent and give a full and lucid idea of the topography of the country, together with the routes of existing and projected lines of railway.

Ben Butler says he shall make a square

157 kb

1884 – 16 March – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* – Bell Farm bonds bought by Winnipeg bankers. (McArthur and Boyle became Bell Farm Directors in 1885)

"McArthur, Boyle and Campbell, bankers, have purchased the bonds of Major Bell's fare, to the amount of $150,000."

1884 – 17 March – train left Winnipeg – report March 22 – Source: Victoria Times Colonist. .? (see also March 24 below)

"**IMMIGRATION. – The First Arrivals of the Season – A Contingent for the Bell Farm – The Sowden Colonists.**

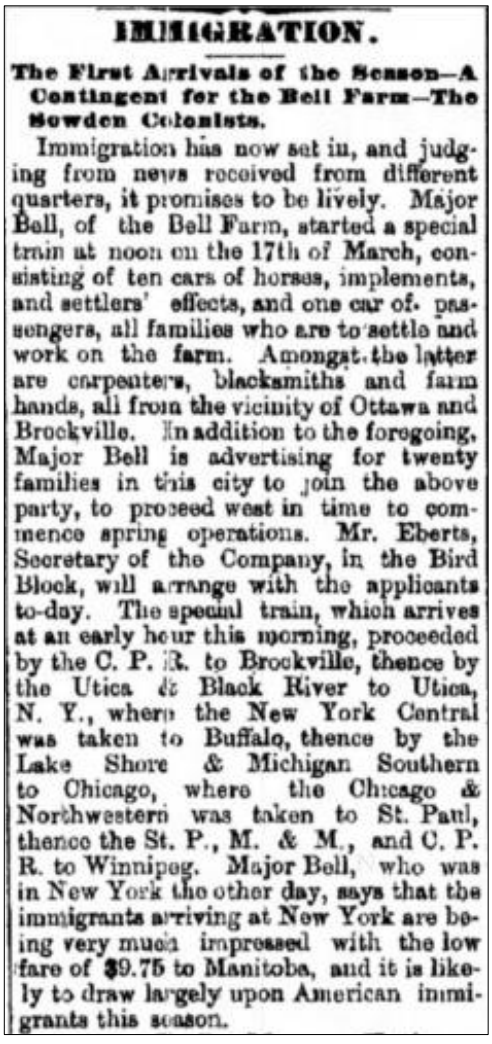
Immigration has now set in, and judging from news received from different quarters, it promises to be lively. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, started a special train at noon on the 17th of March , consisting of ten cars of horses, implements, and settlers' effects, and one car of passengers, all families who are to settle and work on the farm. Amongst the latter are carpenters, blacksmiths and farm hands, all from the vicinity of Ottawa and Brockville. In addition to the foregoing, Major Bell is advertising for twenty families in this city to join the above party, to proceed west in time to commence spring operations. Mr. Eberts, Secretary of the Company, in the Bird Block, will arrange with the applicants to-day. The special train,

which arrived at an early hour this morning, proceeded by the C.P.R. to Brockville, thence by the Utica & Black River, to Utica, N.Y. , where the New York Central was taken to Buffalo, thence by the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern to Chicago, where the Chicago & Northwestern was taken to St. Paul, thence the St. P. M. & M. and C.P.R to Winnipeg. Major Bell, who was in New York the other day, says that the immigrants arriving at New York are being very much impressed with the low fare of $9.75 to Manitoba, and it is likely to draw largely upon American immigrants this season."

1884 – March 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 - advertisement in Winnipeg for Bell Farm workers

"WANTED – A GOOD COOK, TWO General Servants (female), and Twenty Married Men accustomed to the care of Horses, for the Bell Farm. Apply Monday afternoon at the office of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Ltd., Bird Block, _ Bannatyne St. E. H.J. Eberts, Sec. Treas. Mar 22 24."

1884 – March 24 – *Victoria Times Colonist ,* p. __- newspaper article indicates that Major Bell was in New York to send off a shipment of rail cars to Indian Head, with settlers and equipment. Looks like he did business in New York after he returned from England.



IMMIGRATION.

The First Arrivals of the Season—A Contingent for the Bell Farm—The Sowden Colonists.

Immigration has now set in, and judging from news received from different quarters, it promises to be lively. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, started a special train at noon on the 17th of March, consisting of ten cars of horses, implements, and settlers' effects, and one car of passengers, all families who are to settle and work on the farm. Amongst the latter are carpenters, blacksmiths and farm hands, all from the vicinity of Ottawa and Brockville. In addition to the foregoing, Major Bell is advertising for twenty families in this city to join the above party, to proceed west in time to commence spring operations. Mr. Eberts, Secretary of the Company, in the Bird Block, will arrange with the applicants to-day. The special train, which arrives at an early hour this morning, proceeded by the C. P. R. to Brockville, thence by the Utica & Black River to Utica, N. Y., where the New York Central was taken to Buffalo, thence by the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern to Chicago, where the Chicago & Northwestern was taken to St. Paul, thence the St. P., M. & M., and C. P. R. to Winnipeg. Major Bell, who was in New York the other day, says that the immigrants arriving at New York are being very much impressed with the low fare of $9.75 to Manitoba, and it is likely to draw largely upon American immigrants this season.

143 kb

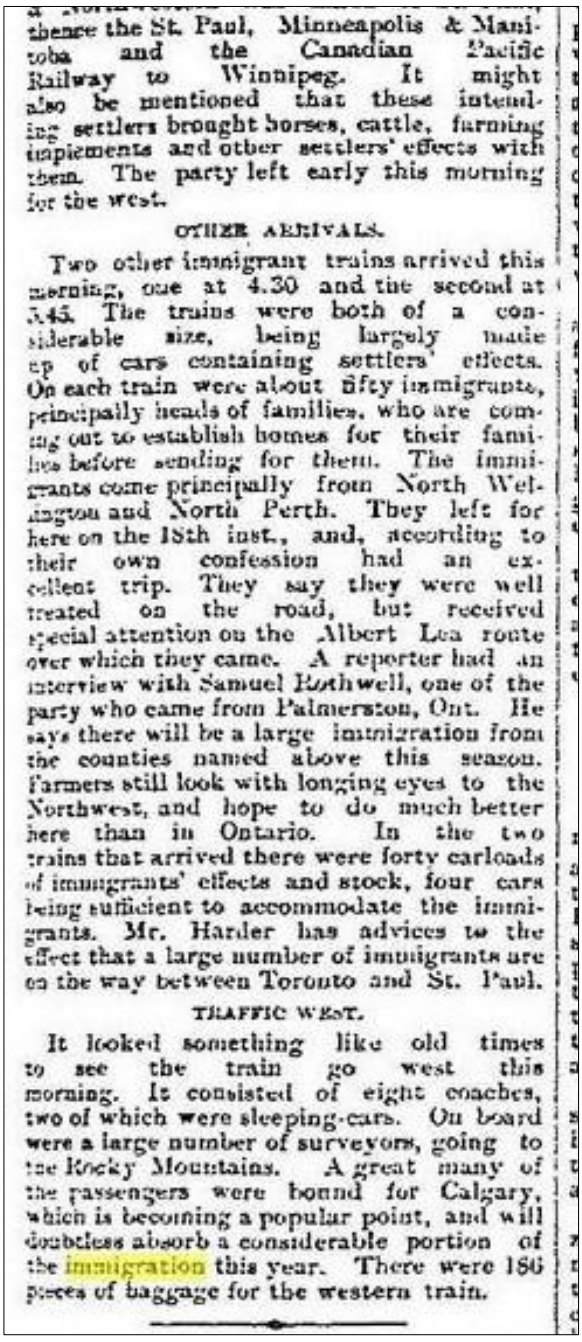
1884 – March 24 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun,* p. 3 – Bell Farm and Immigration – new arrivals in Winnipeg

THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION.

Immigrants Arriving in Large Numbers.

EXCELLENT PROSPECTS THIS SEASON.

The tide of immigration may now fairly be said to have set in, notwithstanding the earliness of the season. Last week, it is estimated, counting the stragglers, and several car-loads that arrived, that about two hundred intending settlers came to the Province. Yesterday a party of twenty-seven, principally young farmers from Pennsylvania, arrived. They have been engaged to work on the Bell farm. It is their intention to settle in this country, and they will take up farms as soon as they have time to spy out the land. They state that agricultural pursuits in their native state are proving a failure, and that it is difficult to make a living off the land in the Eastern States. They predict an immense emigration west this and next year. The farmers in Maine and Pennsylvania are rapidly becoming demoralized at the poor results attained from farming; in fact, said one of the young men, they are scarcely able to make a living. Among those who arrived and who will work on the Bell farm, are blacksmiths, carpenters, farm laborers. The Bell Farming Company is also advertising for twenty families in the city to join the party and proceed to the farm in time to commence operations in the spring. The low rate of $9.75 from Montreal is having a capital effect on immigration, and agents say it will result in inducing immigrants who would settle in the States to come to Canada. It might be mentioned that the route taken by the excursion train which brought the immigrants was the Canadian Pacific Railway to Brockville, thence by the Utica & Black River to Utica, New York, where the New York Central was taken to Buffalo, thence by the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern to Chicago, where the Chicago & Northwestern was taken to St. Paul, thence the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba and the Canadian Pacific Railway to Winnipeg. It might also be mentioned that these intending settlers brought horses, cattle, farming implements and other settlers' effects with them. The party left early this morning for the west.



thence the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba and the Canadian Pacific Railway to Winnipeg. It might also be mentioned that these intending settlers brought horses, cattle, farming implements and other settlers' effects with them. The party left early this morning for the west.

OTHER ARRIVALS.

Two other immigrant trains arrived this morning, one at 4.30 and the second at 5.45. The trains were both of a considerable size, being largely made up of cars containing settlers' effects. On each train were about fifty immigrants, principally heads of families, who are coming out to establish homes for their families before sending for them. The immigrants come principally from North Wellington and North Perth. They left for here on the 18th inst., and, according to their own confession had an excellent trip. They say they were well treated on the road, but received special attention on the Albert Lea route over which they came. A reporter had an interview with Samuel Rothwell, one of the party who came from Palmerston, Ont. He says there will be a large immigration from the counties named above this season. Farmers still look with longing eyes to the Northwest, and hope to do much better here than in Ontario. In the two trains that arrived there were forty carloads of immigrants' effects and stock, four cars being sufficient to accommodate the immigrants. Mr. Harder has advices to the effect that a large number of immigrants are on the way between Toronto and St. Paul.

TRAFFIC WEST.

It looked something like old times to see the train go west this morning. It consisted of eight coaches, two of which were sleeping-cars. On board were a large number of surveyors, going to the Rocky Mountains. A great many of the passengers were bound for Calgary, which is becoming a popular point, and will doubtless absorb a considerable portion of the immigration this year. There were 186 pieces of baggage for the western train.

130 kb 120 kb

1884 – March 27 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 8 – Bell leaves Winnipeg for Indian Head with more employees

"**PERSONAL MENTION** - Major Bell leaves this morning for Indian Head with fifty hands for the great Qu'Appelle Valley farm."

1884 – March 27 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Bell brings 50 employees from Winnipeg to Indian Head

"**CITY AND PROVINCE** – **PERSONAL** . . . . Major Bell leaves this morning for Indian Head, with fifty hands for the great Qu'Appelle Valley Farm."

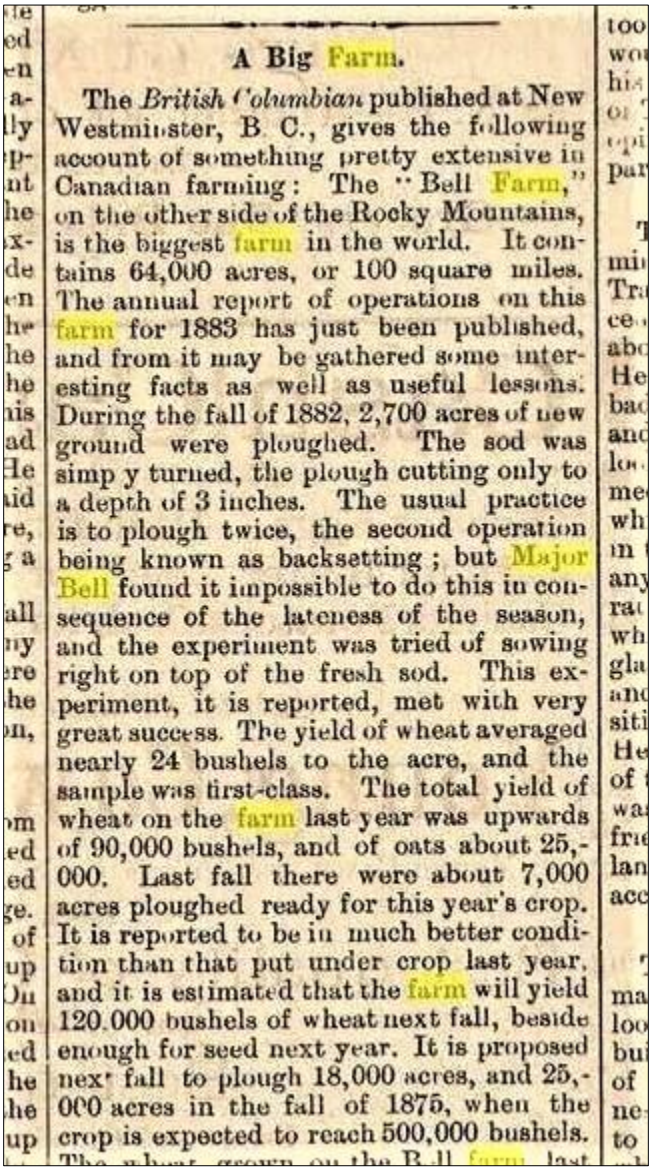
1884 – March 27 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 6 – minor reference to the Bell Farm :

"A List of Post Offices to be opened on the First of April . . . and Balcarres, Katepwa and Kenlis are situated in the Qu'Appelle Valley, due north of Indian Head and the Bell Farm"

1884 – March 27 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 6 - purchase of Bell Farm Bonds by McArthur, Boyle and Campbell

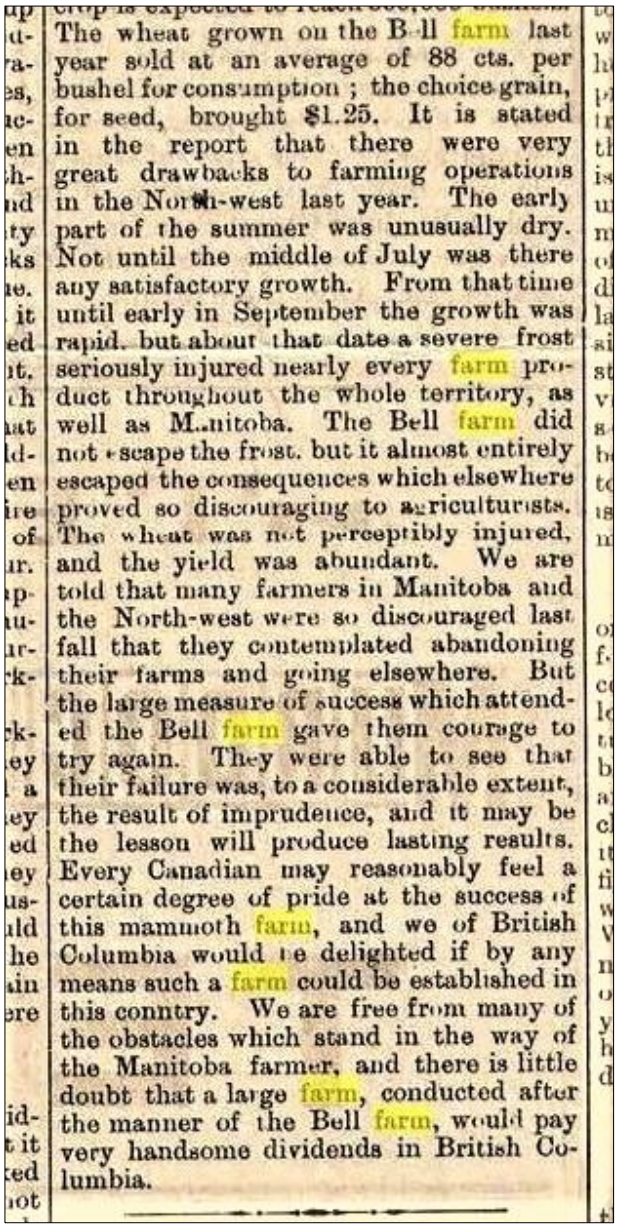
"**PROVINCIAL ITEMS. -** Messrs. McArthur, Boyle & Campbell, bankers, have purchased Bell Farm bonds to the amount of $150,000, running five years and bearing interest at 6 per cent, at 65."

1884 – March 28 – *Canadian Statesman, Bowmanville, Ontario*, p. 14 – Report on the Big Bell Farm from B.C.



A Big Farm.

The *British Columbian* published at New Westminster, B. C., gives the following account of something pretty extensive in Canadian farming: The "Bell Farm," on the other side of the Rocky Mountains, is the biggest farm in the world. It contains 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles. The annual report of operations on this farm for 1883 has just been published, and from it may be gathered some interesting facts as well as useful lessons. During the fall of 1882, 2,700 acres of new ground were ploughed. The sod was simply turned, the plough cutting only to a depth of 3 inches. The usual practice is to plough twice, the second operation being known as backsetting; but Major Bell found it impossible to do this in consequence of the lateness of the season, and the experiment was tried of sowing right on top of the fresh sod. This experiment, it is reported, met with very great success. The yield of wheat averaged nearly 24 bushels to the acre, and the sample was first-class. The total yield of wheat on the farm last year was upwards of 90,000 bushels, and of oats about 25,000. Last fall there were about 7,000 acres ploughed ready for this year's crop. It is reported to be in much better condition than that put under crop last year, and it is estimated that the farm will yield 120,000 bushels of wheat next fall, beside enough for seed next year. It is proposed next fall to plough 18,000 acres, and 25,000 acres in the fall of 1875, when the crop is expected to reach 500,000 bushels.



The wheat grown on the Bell farm last year sold at an average of 88 cts. per bushel for consumption; the choice grain, for seed, brought $1.25. It is stated in the report that there were very great drawbacks to farming operations in the North-west last year. The early part of the summer was unusually dry. Not until the middle of July was there any satisfactory growth. From that time until early in September the growth was rapid, but about that date a severe frost seriously injured nearly every farm product throughout the whole territory, as well as Manitoba. The Bell farm did not escape the frost, but it almost entirely escaped the consequences which elsewhere proved so discouraging to agriculturists. The wheat was not perceptibly injured, and the yield was abundant. We are told that many farmers in Manitoba and the North-west were so discouraged last fall that they contemplated abandoning their farms and going elsewhere. But the large measure of success which attended the Bell farm gave them courage to try again. They were able to see that their failure was, to a considerable extent, the result of imprudence, and it may be the lesson will produce lasting results. Every Canadian may reasonably feel a certain degree of pride at the success of this mammoth farm, and we of British Columbia would be delighted if by any means such a farm could be established in this country. We are free from many of the obstacles which stand in the way of the Manitoba farmer, and there is little doubt that a large farm, conducted after the manner of the Bell farm, would pay very handsome dividends in British Columbia.

155 kb 161 kb

1884 – March 29 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. p. 4 – Donation to Wpg. Gen. Hospital – maybe Major W.R. Bell

[Frank: As there are several men named "Major Bell" at this time, it is not certain if this reference is to Major Bell of Winnipeg or Major Bell of Indian Head. Major W.R. Bell left Winnipeg on March 27 to recruit men for the Bell Farm. Donations are not often documented in the Timeline; the only other one recorded to date (April 2022) was for land on which to build St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Indian Head – see June 3, 1883.]

> "**CITY AND PROVINCE –** The Secretary-Treasurer of the Winnipeg general hospital acknowledges with thanks the receipt of $20, being the result of a billiard match between Major Bell and Mr. Edward Riddle." (Frank: which Major Bell? Charles Napier Bell was on the Board of the Winnipeg General Hospital, so it seems more likely that this donation was made by him.)

1884 – April 3 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 8 – Ralph Todd to install Bell Farm telephones

> "Mr. Todd is going to put up six telephones on the Bell farm, near Indian Head."

1884 – April 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell Farm Hotel for rent – first notice

HOTEL TO LET

A GOOD OPENING.

The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Limited), proprietors of the Bell Farm, wish to negotiate with some competent and responsible party to furnish, equip and run the fine new brick Hotel lately erected at Indian Head on the C. P. R. The House is well finished, is the largest in the North-West, and as the situation of the town is charming and the Bell Farm an object of great interest to the travelling public there is an opening for a thoroughly first class business. None but reliable men need apply. Rental secondary consideration to a good tenant. Apply to H. J. Eberts, Secy.-Treas., 4 Hannah Street east, Winnipeg, or to W. R. Bell, Manager, Indian Head, N. W. T.

Winnipeg, 1st April, 1884. apr3tf.

72 kb

1884 – April 4 – *Victoria Daily British Colonist*, p. 5 – Trainload of 11 cars bound for Bell Farm

> "**EASTERN CANADA MAIL -** WINNIPEG, March 22 – Immigration has now set in, and judging from the news received from different quarters, it promises to be lively. Major bell, of the Bell farm, started a special train at noon on the 17th of March, consisting of ten cars of horses, implements, and settlers' effects, and one cars of passengers, all families who are to settle and work on the farm."

1884 – April 8 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Eberts releases report from Major Bell on spring seeding

> "MR. EBERTS, Secretary-Treasurer of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, received a telegram yesterday from Major Bell, which states that harrowing commenced on Thursday, March 27th, and seeding on Monday, the 31st ult. A subsequent telegram says the weather was

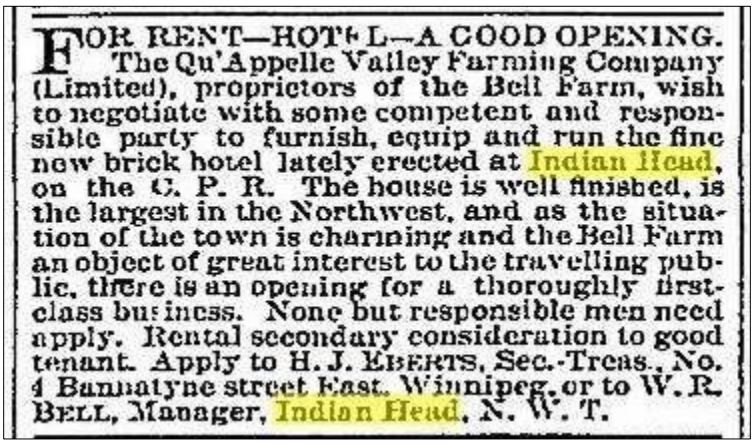
all that could be desired, and he expected to have all the seeding completed by April 20th. This means that there will be by that date 7,000 acres under crop at the Bell farm."

1884 – April 8 – Report published in the *Royal Colonial Institute*, Annual Report for 1883-84, p. 193-194:

"Seventeen Years in the Canadian North-West", presented by Alexander Begg.

". . . . .Six stations are established between Broadview and Qu'Appelle, the latter a thriving place, owing to the proximity to the fertile agricultural district lying to the north. The Qu'Appelle valley is already famous, and is thickly peopled with the very best class of settlers. Here is situated the famous Bell Farm. This estate was organized in 1882, and had under crop in 1883 4,000 acres, which yielded an average of twenty-two bushels of wheat per acre from the sod, *i.e.,* without backsetting. The company are preparing to put under crop 10,000 acres during the season of this year. No less than 10,000 bushels of last year's crop were sold for export at a good profit. The great success attending the operations of this farm illustrates the facility with which wheat can be grown in the North-West and sold at a profit to Eastern buyers. . . . . "

1884 – April 10 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – Bell Farm Hotel For Rent

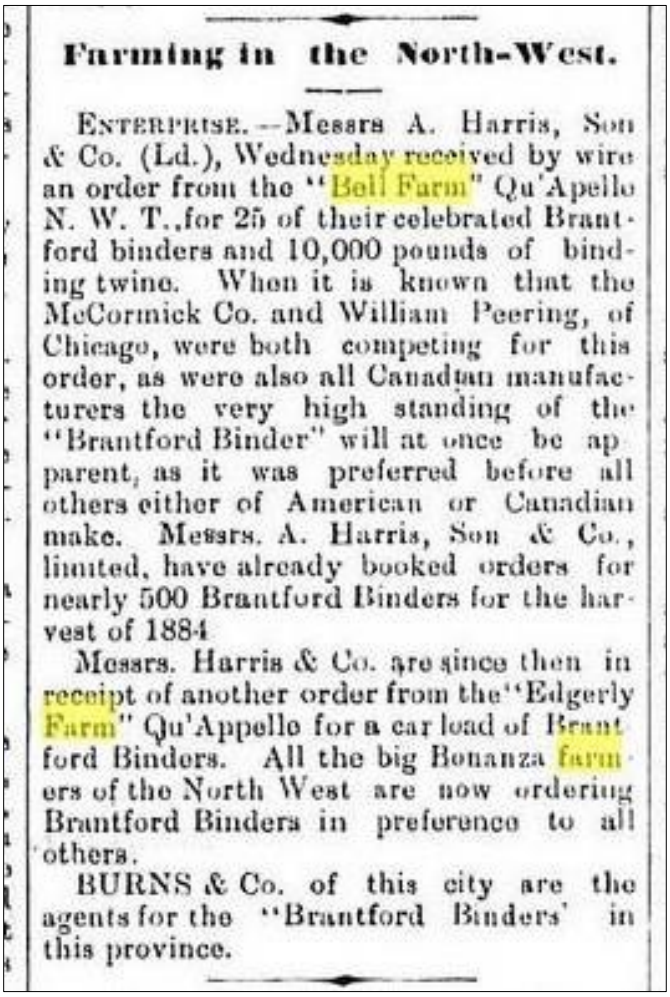

FOR RENT—HOTEL—A GOOD OPENING. The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Limited), proprietors of the Bell Farm, wish to negotiate with some competent and responsible party to furnish, equip and run the fine new brick hotel lately erected at Indian Head, on the C. P. R. The house is well finished, is the largest in the Northwest, and as the situation of the town is charming and the Bell Farm an object of great interest to the travelling public, there is an opening for a thoroughly first-class business. None but responsible men need apply. Rental secondary consideration to good tenant. Apply to H. J. EBERTS, Sec.-Treas., No. 4 Bannatyne street East, Winnipeg, or to W. R. BELL, Manager, Indian Head, N. W. T.

98 kb

1884 – April 28 – *Brandon Daily Sun*, p. 8 – Bell Farm buys 25 Harris binders

"The implement men at Brandon report having made large sales of seeders and harrows this spring, and Messrs. Harris & Son 25 self-binders to the Bell Farming Co."

1884 – May 4 – *Victoria Daily British Colonist*, p. 5 – Brantford binders to Bell Farm (also republished on May 10, 11 , 13, 23, 28, etc. - p. 1)



Farming in the North-West.

ENTERPRISE.—Messrs A. Harris, Son & Co. (Ld.), Wednesday received by wire an order from the "Bell Farm" Qu'Apello N. W. T., for 25 of their celebrated Brantford binders and 10,000 pounds of binding twine. When it is known that the McCormick Co. and William Peering, of Chicago, were both competing for this order, as were also all Canadian manufacturers the very high standing of the "Brantford Binder" will at once be apparent, as it was preferred before all others either of American or Canadian make. Messrs. A. Harris, Son & Co., limited, have already booked orders for nearly 500 Brantford Binders for the harvest of 1884

Messrs. Harris & Co. are since then in receipt of another order from the "Edgerly Farm" Qu'Appelle for a car load of Brantford Binders. All the big Bonanza farmers of the North West are now ordering Brantford Binders in preference to all others.

BURNS & Co. of this city are the agents for the "Brantford Binders' in this province.

94 kb

1884 – May 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. Major Bell in Winnipeg

> "**PERSONAL:** - Major Bell, manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, is again in the city."

1884 – May 23 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell Farm Hotel for rent.

HOTEL TO LET

A GOOD OPENING.

The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Limited), proprietors of the Bell Farm, wish to negotiate with some competent and responsible party to furnish, equip and run the fine new brick Hotel lately erected at Indian Head on the C. P. R. The House is well finished, is the largest in the North-West, and as the situation of the town is charming and the Bell Farm an object of great interest to the travelling public there is an opening for a thoroughly first class business. None but reliable men need apply. Rental secondary consideration to a good tenant. Apply to L. J. Eberts, Secy.-Treas., 4 Bannatyne Street east, Winnipeg, or to W. R. Bell, Manager, Indian Head, N. W. T.

Winnipeg, 1st April, 1884.

82 kb

[This advertisement was also published in the *Manitoba Daily Free Press* for several months, starting on April 3 , 1884, p. 4; then again on May 8, 1884, p. 2; May 9, 1884, p. 2; May 30, 1884, p. 2; and July 5, 1884, p. 3.]

1884 – May 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Bell Farm buys flax seed from Mr. Body, Winnipeg miller.

"The Bell farm Company has taken 500 bushels of flax seed from Mr. Body, who is about erecting a linseed oil mill at Winnipeg. This quantity will seed down 1,500 acres of sod. The product, estimated to about 25,000 bushels, will be purchased by Mr. Body, who will commence crushing as soon as the crop is threshed."

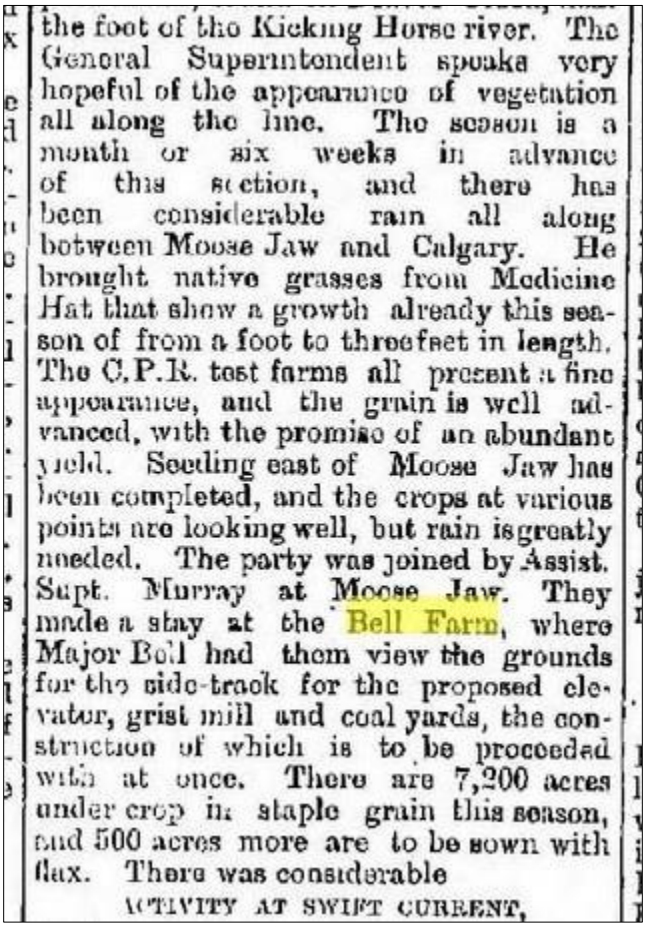
1884 – May 29 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – CPR officials inspect rail siding location with Major Bell

"**INDIAN HEAD. Visit of Railway Magnets.** Indian Head, N.W.T., May 27. – A special train passed east with General Superintendent Egan, Assistant Superintendent Murray and Chief Dispatcher Timmerman. They viewed the grounds here to day with Major Bell for the side track for elevators, grist mill and coal yards. Its construction is to begin at an early date."

1884 – 29 May – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Osment selling store and bricks

"**BUSINESS CHANCES.** FOR SALE – A LARGE STORE AND dwelling house, with stables and carriage house. Hard and soft water on the premises, good cellar. Two lots, well fenced. Also a quantity of bricks. Apply on the premises to A.J. Osment, Contractor. Indian Head, N.W.T."

1884 – May 30 – *Manitoba Daily Free Pres*, p. 4 – C.P.R.'s Egan and Murray visits Bell Farm to review proposed siding at Indian Head for Bell Farm mill, elevator and coal sheds.



the foot of the Kicking Horse river. The General Superintendent speaks very hopeful of the appearance of vegetation all along the line. The season is a month or six weeks in advance of this section, and there has been considerable rain all along between Moose Jaw and Calgary. He brought native grasses from Medicine Hat that show a growth already this season of from a foot to three feet in length. The C.P.R. test farms all present a fine appearance, and the grain is well advanced, with the promise of an abundant yield. Seeding east of Moose Jaw has been completed, and the crops at various points are looking well, but rain is greatly needed. The party was joined by Assist. Supt. Murray at Moose Jaw. They made a stay at the Bell Farm, where Major Bell had them view the grounds for the side-track for the proposed elevator, grist mill and coal yards, the construction of which is to be proceeded with at once. There are 7,200 acres under crop in staple grain this season, and 500 acres more are to be sown with flax. There was considerable

ACTIVITY AT SWIFT CURRENT,

410 kb

1884 – June 2 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – E.J. Cracknell visits Bell Farm for C.P.R. report

> " **ADVERTISING CANADA – The Operations of the C.P.R. Company in Europe -** . . . . . Newport Pagnall Gazette , May 10. – Mr. J.E. Cracknell, who has recently returned from the Dominion, and who is making a tour of this country for the purpose of diffusing information as to the capabilities of the Canadian Northwest as a field for emigration, ... From Brandon we proceeded to note the magnificent scenery in the Qu'Appelle Valley, where we visited the Bell Farm, and glanced at the agricultural operation in progress. . . . . ."

1884 – June 5 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Bell and Sykes Farm crops

> "The Bell farm will have 500 acres of wheat and 2,000 of oats on old land and 1,000 acres of oats on new breaking this year. The Sykes farm, near the Bell farm, is to be worked by steam power. They broke 1,300 acres last year and will break the same amount this year, Mr. Connell has 1,700 acres under crop this year and will have as much more next year."

1884 – June 12 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Tree planting details on the Bell Farm

> "A leading resident of the North-West, says the Emerson International, writes a description of his trip to the Rockies to a friend in Ottawa. He says of the Bell Farm: "In one field I saw 70 pair of horses breaking up the prairie, 7,500 acres have been put in wheat, oats and flax this spring, and on May 5 most of it was over the ground, much of the land is tinted with the beautiful green of the spring wheat. The management on this farm is alive to the beauty as well as utility, and

for proof they had planted at the time I was there sixteen miles with a double row of trees at each side of the road, 260 per mile. A contract has been given, and the contractor finds the trees in the bluffs and plants them at ten cents per tree. They are six to eight feet high, look thrifty and nice, and are certainly a lesson and pattern to be followed in our prairie country."

1884 – June 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 - another advertisement for renting the Bell Farm Hotel

1884 – June 14 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell, Northwood and Wood in Wpg, then on to Bell Farm

"Mr. P. Wood, of Brantford, Ont., and a brother of the late Chief Justice Wood, arrived from the East last night and is at the Queen's. He is up on a visit to the Bell Farm, in which he is interested. Mr. J. Northwood, another of the directors, has arrived from Chatham, Ont., and will also go out on Monday. Major Bell arrived from the West last evening and will accompany the directors to Indian Head on Monday."

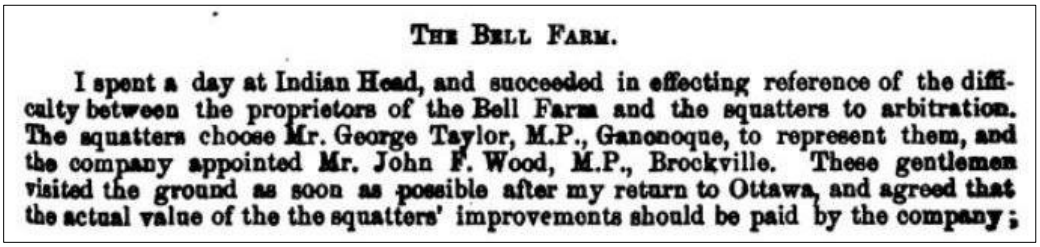
1884 – June 16 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Bell Farm directors meeting - elevator construction approved

"THE GOSSIP OF THE CITY – Overheard and Repeated by Reporters of the Sun . . . . . A meeting of the Bell Farming Company was held on Saturday. Mr. Duncan MacArthur, president, occupied the chair, and there were present Messrs. T. Howard, A.F. Eden, Major Bell and E.J. Eberts, secretary. It was decided to immediately erect an elevator of 50,000 bushels capacity."

1884 – June 16 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Bell Farm directors meeting - elevator construction approved

"**CITY AND PROVINCE** – A meeting of the Bell Farming Company was held on Saturday. Mr. Duncan MacArthur, president, occupied the chair, and there were present Messrs. T. Howard, A.F. Eden, Major Bell, and E. J. Eberts, secretary. The principal object of the meeting was to discuss the advisability of erecting an elevator on the farm contiguous to the railway. After considerable discussion on the subject it was decided to construct one immediately, so that this summer's harvest might be stored in it. It will have a capacity of 50,000 bushels – being the largest outside of Winnipeg, and will cost close on to $20,000. Some routine business was also transacted and the meeting adjourned."

1884 – (June or July) – A.M. Burgess, Deputy Minister of the Interior, Annual Report for Dept. of Interior for 1884, Part 6, p. 13-14 and 15-16 – also comments on mixed and specialized farming in the West.



THE BELL FARM.

I spent a day at Indian Head, and succeeded in effecting reference of the difficulty between the proprietors of the Bell Farm and the squatters to arbitration. The squatters choose Mr. George Taylor, M.P., Gananoque, to represent them, and the company appointed Mr. John F. Wood, M.P., Brockville. These gentlemen visited the ground as soon as possible after my return to Ottawa, and agreed that the actual value of the the squatters' improvements should be paid by the company;

that the squatters should select homesteads upon the public lands open to settlement; and that the Government would be asked to favourably consider their claim to have the period of actual residence and cultivation of the lands they occupied within the company's tract credited in regard to the lands selected. To this settlement the Government and the company agreed, and it has been accepted by all the squatters but one. I made a thorough inspection of the tract sold to the company, and found the crops in a forward and promising condition, and must add my testimony to that offered by all who have seen the farm, as to the illustration it affords of the wonderfull grain-producing capacity of that section of the North-West. My objects were facilitated in every possible way by the manager, Major Bell.

MIXED FARMING—CARE OF IMPLEMENTS.

The partial failure of the crop last year was, undoubtedly, a very great calamity, and was the principal cause, combined with the exaggerations indulged in at some public meetings in the Province, and by a number of organs of public opinion in Manitoba and elsewhere in Canada, of reducing very materially the settlement made upon public lands this season. But the people have learned some valuable lessons from their misfortune, one of which is that, however profitable the growing of wheat may be in a country so well adapted as the North-West for the production, at very small cost, of enormous crops, it is better that the bulk of the population should not be entirely dependent upon that one industry. What makes exclusive wheat growing very enticing to a certain class of settlers is, that it leaves at their disposal a considerable portion of the year, during which they may give their attention to other pursuits. But it is with farming as it is with every other calling in life, to be successful, a man must, as a rule, give to it his whole time and energy. Except in cases like the Bell and other similar large farms, where the raising of grain is made a specialty, and not only is the land selected for that purpose, but the most improved methods are resorted to, and the best procurable machinery obtained, I am convinced that mixed farming would, in the end, prove the most profitable to the settler, and most advantageous to the country. The recurrence of the disaster of last year would in this way be avoided, and a homestead would become much more the actual home of the farmer than it is at present; thus promoting the *bonâ fide* settlement of the land,

292 kb

the establishment in rural districts of schools, churches, and social organizations, and the greater comfort of the majority of the people. The average homesteader has, in too many cases, neither cows, sheep, pigs nor poultry; and the consequence is that almost everywhere throughout the Province the products of these animals are scarce and dear. That the farmer should be a customer of the country storekeeper for such articles as butter, eggs and bacon, is almost beyond belief, but it seems to be the fact nevertheless. Of the advantages of mixed farming the people themselves are rapidly becoming convinced, and it is shown by the statistics collected with so much care, and published, from time to time, by the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Manitoba, that great advances in the direction of this change have been made in the course of the past two or three years. Another respect in which there is great room for improvement, is the care of implements. I regretted to see, on every hand, valuable ploughs, harrows and harvesters lying in the open air, exposed to sun, wind and rain— a condition in which, I am informed, they frequently remain throughout the whole season, except when they are in actual use. Many of these articles have been purchased on long credit—and, it is not necessary to add, at long prices, too—and it is greatly to be feared that, in many cases, they will be worn out through exposure to the weather before they are actually paid for.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. M. BURGESS,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

The Hon. Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

I want to add, at the point where I mentioned the arrangement made with regard to the exclusion of sheep from the cattle country, that the cattle industry has grown to be one of great importance to the North-West; that there are millions of acres outside of the territory now occupied for that purpose—as there will continue to be for many a year to come—the quality of which is far better suited for ordinary agriculture; and that, in my opinion, it would be a great public misfortune if the Government should pursue any course calculated to interfere with the successful pursuit of cattle raising, and the investment of a still larger amount of capital in what is proved to be so important an adjunct to the opening up of the country.

319 kb

1884 – Spring-Summer – Jane. E. Groom brings deaf-mute men and boys to the West; five are placed at the Bell Farm.

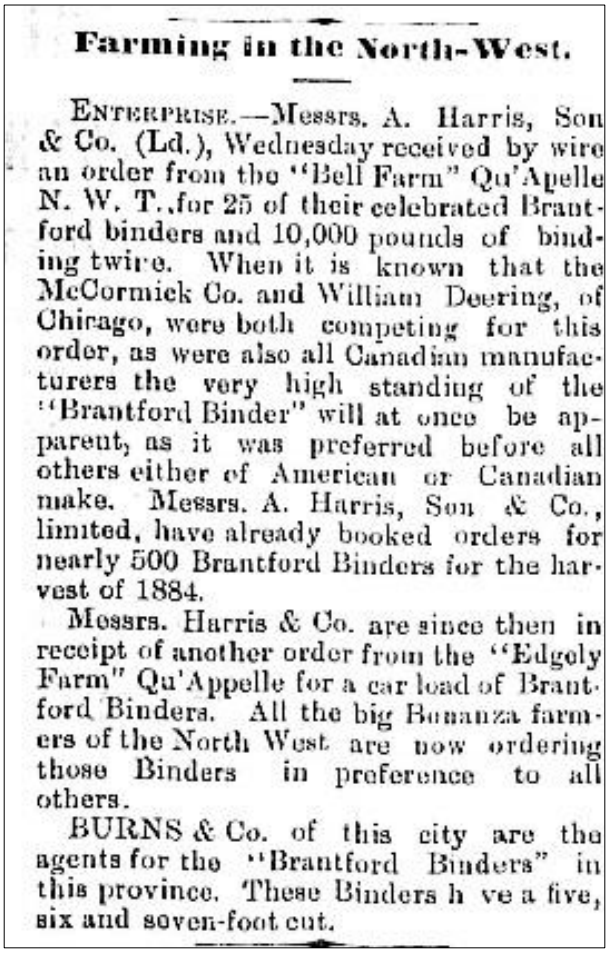
"Miss Groom thus proceeds with her narrative:

' I placed five of my party on the farm of Major Bell, a gentleman well-known in Manitoba, who owns a very celebrated farm, covering 65,000 acres extending some ten miles around. Major Bell's property is situated at Indian Head; he has eighty cottages on the estate, and an immense quantity of farming implements. This gentleman employs a great number of agricultural labourers, and of my people he said that they would soon pick up and learn all that was necessary to earn their own living and to cultivate their 'homesteads,' as they were quick and could soon learn anything. They were delighted when I drove them over portions of Major Bell's estate, and were astonished to see such magnificent crops growing on the farm. Mrs. Bell and the Major were most kind and affable to me, and I have reason to believe that the more this gentle lady and her kind husband see of the deaf and dumb people the more they will feel an interest in the settlers I take out there, especially those who would require employment; they would find, at any rate, that the deaf men would do their work as well as the hearing men, and the former do not leave off to gossip as the others do.'

Besides the five members of her people whom she places in the employment of Major Bell, there was "one poor deaf and dumb shoemaker who was sent to a prosperous town in Manitoba . . ."

Source: *A future for the deaf and dumb in the Canadian North-West: Being an account of a first attempt at colonisation in the Canadian North-West by Miss Jane Elizabeth Groom, and a plan of her future operations; 1884, p 15-16.*

1884 – (June 5 or May 6) - *British Times Colonist* (1884/06/05) – purchase of Brantford Binders



Farming in the North-West.

ENTERPRISE.—Messrs. A. Harris, Son & Co. (Ld.), Wednesday received by wire an order from the "Bell Farm" Qu'Apelle N. W. T. for 25 of their celebrated Brantford binders and 10,000 pounds of binding twine. When it is known that the McCormick Co. and William Deering, of Chicago, were both competing for this order, as were also all Canadian manufacturers the very high standing of the "Brantford Binder" will at once be apparent, as it was preferred before all others either of American or Canadian make. Messrs. A. Harris, Son & Co., limited, have already booked orders for nearly 500 Brantford Binders for the harvest of 1884.

Messrs. Harris & Co. are since then in receipt of another order from the "Edgely Farm" Qu'Appelle for a car load of Brantford Binders. All the big Bonanza farmers of the North West are now ordering those Binders in preference to all others.

BURNS & Co. of this city are the agents for the "Brantford Binders" in this province. These Binders h ve a five, six and seven-foot cut.

90 kb

1884 – June 24 – *Regina Leader* – p. 2 – Pork at the Bell Farm

"PORK – Pork will yet form one of the great staple industries of the North-West. The amount of port used here is enormous. Last week we saw car load after car load of pigs going West and teams taking large quantities to the barracks. Now pigs thrive here. The cold does not affect them. The pigs in Regina have all done well. Near the crossing is a perpetually running stream. At the Bell Farm the pigs have done better even than the cattle. Why does not some capitalist come here and secure the trade? Canadians should wake up to their opportunities in the North-West. Cannot Canadians – cannot North-Westers supply tea, sugar, pork, biscuits, hay what not for the North-West, as good as can be found? . . . . . ."

1884 – June 30 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Bell Farm Squatters - Letter from J.D. Jewett

COMMUNICATIONS.

BELL FARM SQUATTERS.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR—You have often heard of Sir John's boasting assertions on the floor of the House, that there had never been, nor would there likely ever be a bona fide settler on the Bell farm interfered with. To show you how far his word has held good, I give below a true copy of a letter just received from the manager of the farm company:

"J. D. Jewett, Indian Head, Sec. 12, T. 18, R. 13:

DEAR SIR—Our company now hold title from the Crown for the land you have squatted on. Before applying for a writ of ejectment against you, we propose leaving the matter as to value of improvements to arbitration, providing you agree to the terms of such arbitration. If you will please call at our office before the 1st of July next I will explain and show you the terms of the said arbitration. This is the final offer of settlement, and is made without prejudice. Yours truly,

W. R. BELL, Gen. Manager.

June 26th, 1881.

Is this another of the manager's misrepresentations, which he has been so fond of making to the settlers on those lands, or has the Government pooled into this Co's, hands to the injury of the pioneer settler?

134 kb

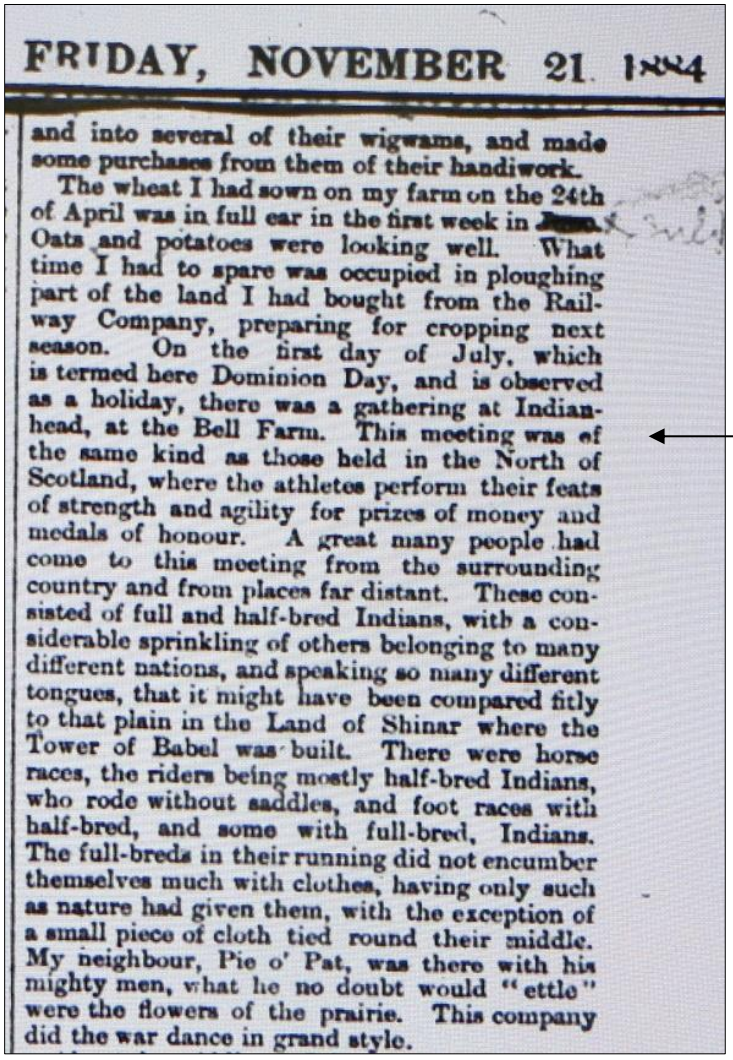
Mr. Editor, in all the ill treatment of settlers, of which you have from time to time given publication, there has not been one instance of greater dissatisfaction, misrepresentation and base falsehood than that which we have had to put up with in the holding of these lands. We have memorialized the Government, we have sent to Ottawa indisputable testimony in reference to our claims, and asked for a small share of the Government's boasted good will to the farming class. But alas we have had none of it shown us. We often hear of the wild uncultured Indians committing depredations in the country, to the terror of many, but we the settlers of this country have more cause to respect Piapot and his braves than we have to respect the double-dealing ones, who would fain take the birthright from the pioneer settlers of the plains.

To show your readers the exact position in which I am placed, I will say that I settled on the land I am now holding in the latter part of April, 1882, and have resided thereon, with my family, almost continuously, and that the Farm Company's agents did not post any notices claiming these lands until May following, although they have repeatedly made assertions that they had posted notices much earlier, and have even made affidavit to it, which we have proven to be utterly false. J. D. JEWETT.

INDIAN HEAD, N.W.T., June 27, 1884.

158 kb

1884 – July 1 – as published in Nov. 21 *Ayrshire Post*: Dominion Day celebrations on the Bell Farm, including First Nation bands



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 1884

and into several of their wigwams, and made some purchases from them of their handiwork.

The wheat I had sown on my farm on the 24th of April was in full ear in the first week in [redacted]. Oats and potatoes were looking well. What time I had to spare was occupied in ploughing part of the land I had bought from the Railway Company, preparing for cropping next season. On the first day of July, which is termed here Dominion Day, and is observed as a holiday, there was a gathering at Indianhead, at the Bell Farm. This meeting was of the same kind as those held in the North of Scotland, where the athletes perform their feats of strength and agility for prizes of money and medals of honour. A great many people had come to this meeting from the surrounding country and from places far distant. These consisted of full and half-bred Indians, with a considerable sprinkling of others belonging to many different nations, and speaking so many different tongues, that it might have been compared fitly to that plain in the Land of Shinar where the Tower of Babel was built. There were horse races, the riders being mostly half-bred Indians, who rode without saddles, and foot races with half-bred, and some with full-bred, Indians. The full-breds in their running did not encumber themselves much with clothes, having only such as nature had given them, with the exception of a small piece of cloth tied round their middle. My neighbour, Pie o' Pat, was there with his mighty men, what he no doubt would "ettle" were the flowers of the prairie. This company did the war dance in grand style.

1884 – July 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Eberts reports on Bell Farm Squatters

COMMUNICATIONS.

BELL FARM SQUATTERS.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir:—As "one story is good until another is told," will you kindly allow me to publish in your columns a rejoinder to the letter of J. D. Jewett appearing in your issue of 30th ult., under the heading "Bell Farm Squatters;" and I may state this will be an answer to any and every communication of the kind.

On the 10th February, 1882, Major W. R. Bell, now, and since its formation, the general manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited), made application to the Government for and on behalf of the Company for the purchase of 25,000 acres, or thereabouts, being all the even-numbered sections within one block of about nine miles square on the main line of the C. P. R., in the valley of the Qu'Appelle, with the view of combining the farming of these, and the adjoining odd sections purchased from the C. P. R. Company, on an extensive scale, with the colonization thereof to the fullest extent required by the Government regulations.

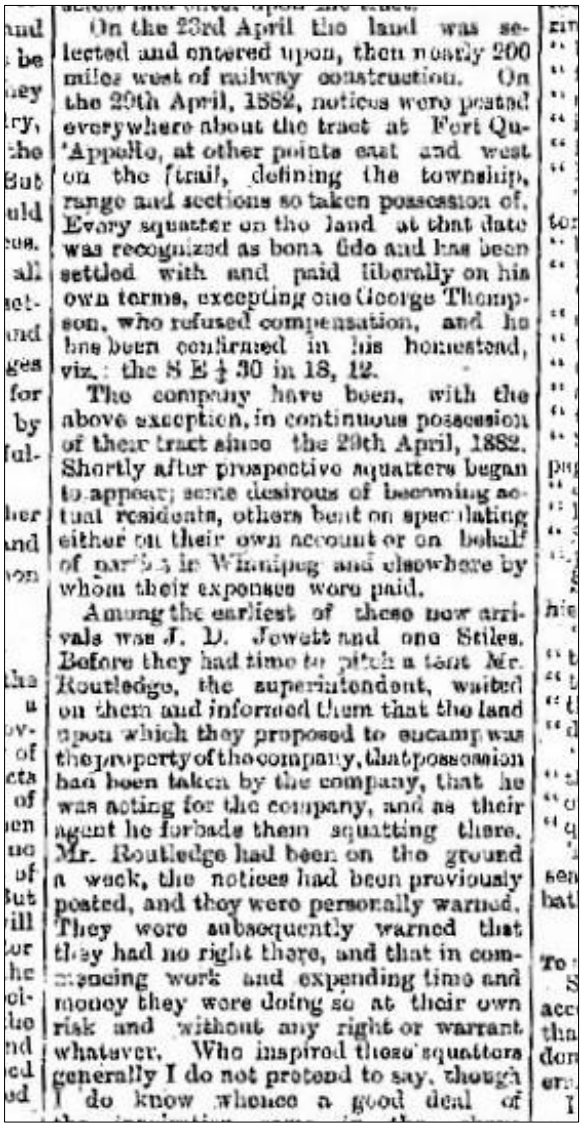
On the 28th February, the Minister of the Interior recommended that the application be granted. On the 3rd April following, the Privy Council passed an order concurring in the recommendation.

On the 17th April contracts had been let for breaking and backsetting 3,000 acres, and a party had been dispatched to select and enter upon the tract.

On the 23rd April the land was selected and entered upon, then nearly 200 miles west of railway construction. On the 20th April, 1882, notices were posted everywhere about the tract at Fort Qu'Appelle, at other points east and west on the trail, defining the township, range and sections so taken possession of. Every squatter on the land at that date was recognized as bona fide and has been settled with and paid liberally on his own terms, excepting one George Thompson, who refused compensation, and he has been confirmed in his homestead, viz.: the S E ¼ 30 in 18, 12.

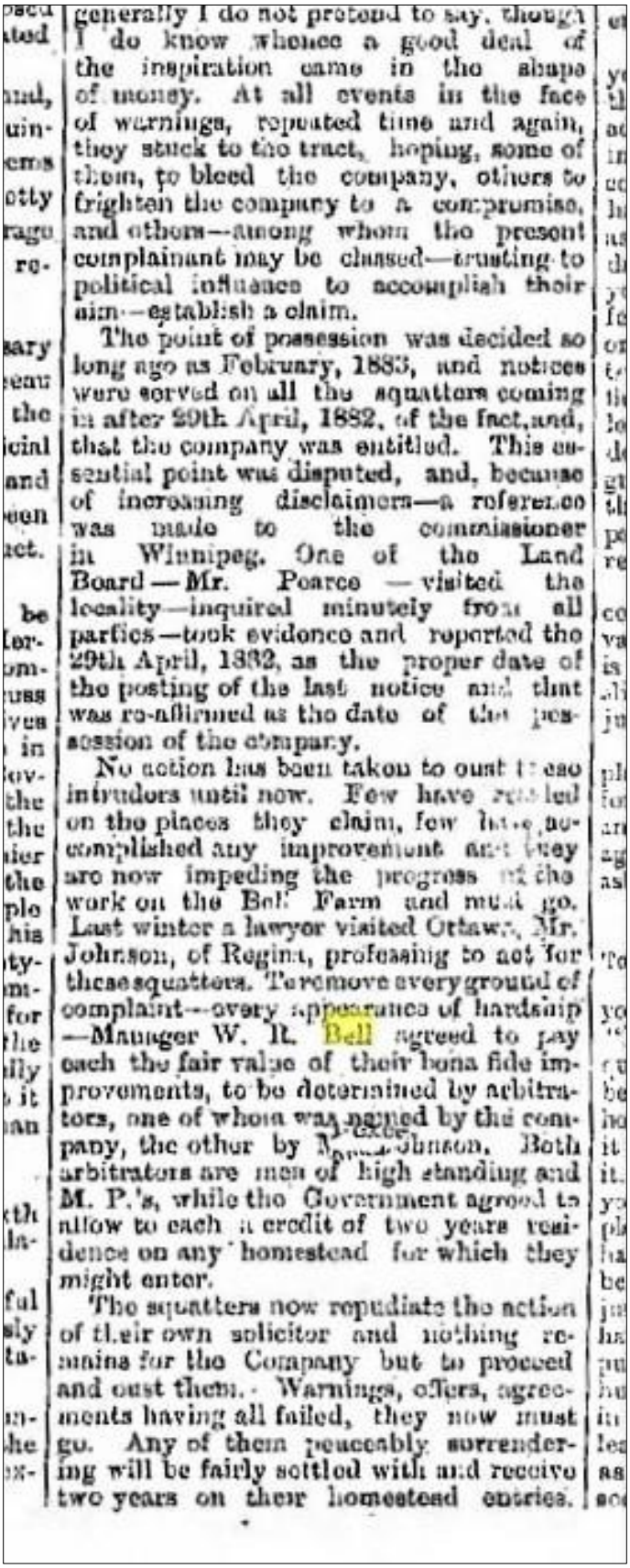
The company have been, with the above exception, in continuous possession of their tract since the 20th April, 1882. Shortly after prospective squatters began to appear; some desirous of becoming actual residents, others bent on speculating either on their own account or on behalf of parties in Winnipeg and elsewhere by whom their expenses were paid.

Among the earliest of these new arrivals was J. D. Jewett and one Stiles. Before they had time to pitch a tent Mr. Routledge, the superintendent, waited on them and informed them that the land upon which they proposed to encamp was the property of the company, that possession had been taken by the company, that he was acting for the company, and as their agent he forbade them squatting there. Mr. Routledge had been on the ground a week, the notices had been previously posted, and they were personally warned. They were subsequently warned that they had no right there, and that in commencing work and expending time and money they were doing so at their own risk and without any right or warrant whatever. Who inspired these squatters generally I do not pretend to say, though I do know whence a good deal of



Part 1 of 4: 109 kb

Part 2 of 4: 129 kb



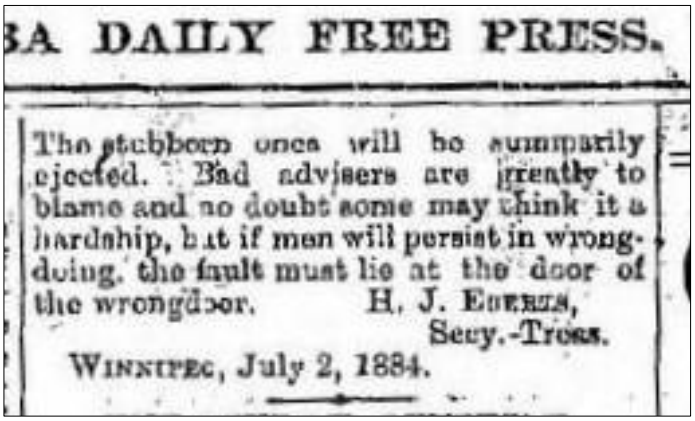
generally I do not pretend to say, though I do know whence a good deal of the inspiration came in the shape of money. At all events in the face of warnings, repeated time and again, they stuck to the tract, hoping, some of them, to bleed the company, others to frighten the company to a compromise, and others—among whom the present complainant may be classed—trusting to political influence to accomplish their aim—establish a claim.

The point of possession was decided so long ago as February, 1883, and notices were served on all the squatters coming in after 29th April, 1882, of the fact, and, that the company was entitled. This essential point was disputed, and, because of increasing disclaimers—a reference was made to the commissioner in Winnipeg. One of the Land Board—Mr. Pearce—visited the locality—inquired minutely from all parties—took evidence and reported the 29th April, 1882, as the proper date of the posting of the last notice and that was re-affirmed as the date of the possession of the company.

No action has been taken to oust these intruders until now. Few have settled on the places they claim, few have accomplished any improvement and they are now impeding the progress of the work on the Bell Farm and must go. Last winter a lawyer visited Ottawa, Mr. Johnson, of Regina, professing to act for these squatters. To remove every ground of complaint—every appearance of hardship—Manager W. R. Bell agreed to pay each the fair value of their bona fide improvements, to be determined by arbitrators, one of whom was named by the company, the other by Mr. Johnson. Both arbitrators are men of high standing and M. P.'s, while the Government agreed to allow to each a credit of two years residence on any homestead for which they might enter.

The squatters now repudiate the action of their own solicitor and nothing remains for the Company but to proceed and oust them. Warnings, offers, agreements having all failed, they now must go. Any of them peaceably surrendering will be fairly settled with and receive two years on their homestead entries.

Part 3 of 4: 145 kb



BA DAILY FREE PRESS.

The stubborn ones will be summarily ejected. Bad advisers are greatly to blame and no doubt some may think it a hardship, but if men will persist in wrong-doing, the fault must lie at the door of the wrongdoer.

H. J. EGERTS,
Secy.-Treas.

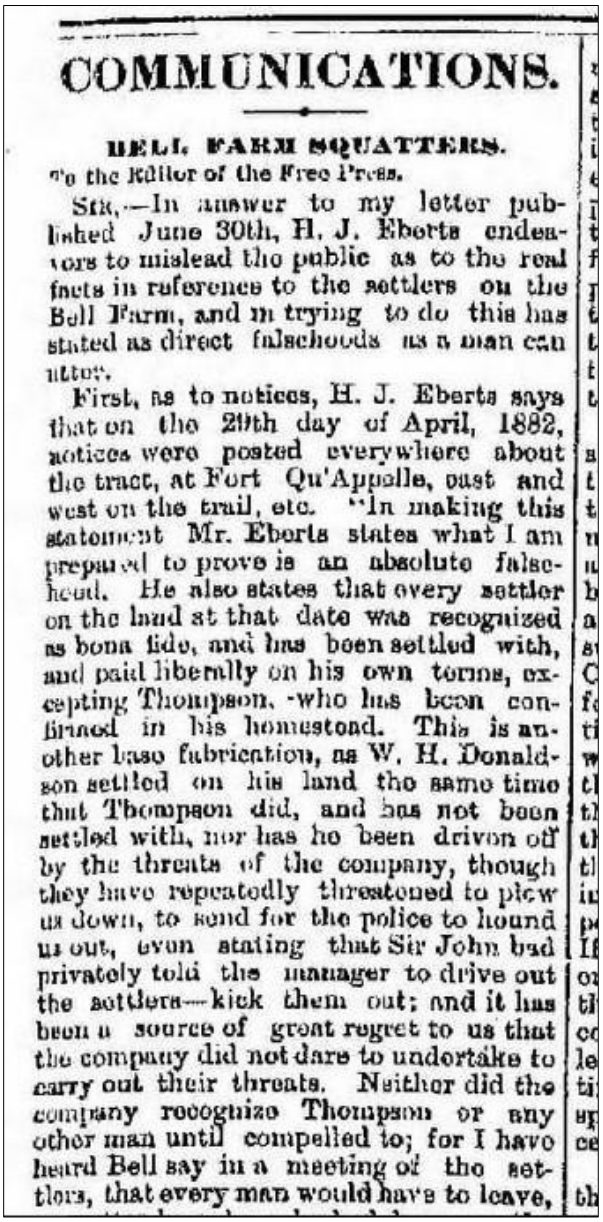
WINNIPEG, July 2, 1884.

Part 4 of 4: 51 kb

1884 – July 7 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – Terrific Storm at Indian Head damages crops

> "**A TERRIFIC STORM**. Damage By Hail in the Vicinity of Indian Head. (Special to the Winnipeg Daily Sun.) INDIAN HEAD, N.W.T., July 7 – There was a terrific hail and rain storm at 5 o'clock this morning. The centre was about four miles south. Much damage has been done to grain in this vicinity."

1884 – July 8 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 - long letter from Jewett on plight of the squatters



COMMUNICATIONS.

BELL FARM SQUATTERS.

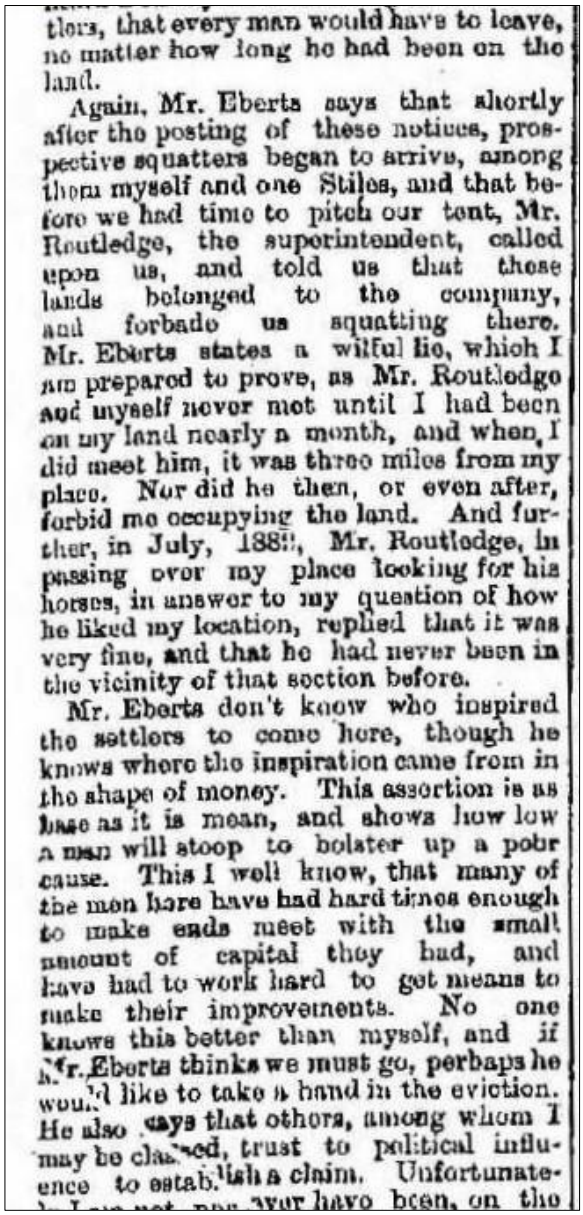
To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR,—In answer to my letter published June 30th, H. J. Eberts endeavors to mislead the public as to the real facts in reference to the settlers on the Bell Farm, and in trying to do this has stated as direct falsehoods as a man can utter.

First, as to notices, H. J. Eberts says that on the 29th day of April, 1882, notices were posted everywhere about the tract, at Fort Qu'Appelle, east and west on the trail, etc. "In making this statement Mr. Eberts states what I am prepared to prove is an absolute falsehood. He also states that every settler on the land at that date was recognized as bona fide, and has been settled with, and paid liberally on his own terms, excepting Thompson, who has been confirmed in his homestead. This is another base fabrication, as W. H. Donaldson settled on his land the same time that Thompson did, and has not been settled with, nor has he been driven off by the threats of the company, though they have repeatedly threatened to plow us down, to send for the police to hound us out, even stating that Sir John had privately told the manager to drive out the settlers—kick them out; and it has been a source of great regret to us that the company did not dare to undertake to carry out their threats. Neither did the company recognize Thompson or any other man until compelled to; for I have heard Bell say in a meeting of the settlers, that every man would have to leave, no matter how long he had been on the land.

Again, Mr. Eberts says that shortly after the posting of these notices, prospective squatters began to arrive, among them myself and one Stiles, and that before we had time to pitch our tent, Mr. Routledge, the superintendent, called upon us, and told us that these lands belonged to the company, and forbade us squatting there. Mr. Eberts states a wilful lie, which I am prepared to prove, as Mr. Routledge and myself never met until I had been on my land nearly a month, and when I did meet him, it was three miles from my place. Nor did he then, or even after, forbid me occupying the land. And further, in July, 1883, Mr. Routledge, in passing over my place looking for his horses, in answer to my question of how he liked my location, replied that it was very fine, and that he had never been in the vicinity of that section before.

Mr. Eberts don't know who inspired the settlers to come here, though he knows where the inspiration came from in the shape of money. This assertion is as base as it is mean, and shows how low a man will stoop to bolster up a poor cause. This I well know, that many of the men here have had hard times enough to make ends meet with the small amount of capital they had, and have had to work hard to get means to make their improvements. No one knows this better than myself, and if Mr. Eberts thinks we must go, perhaps he would like to take a hand in the eviction. He also says that others, among whom I may be classed, trust to political influence to establish a claim. Unfortunate-



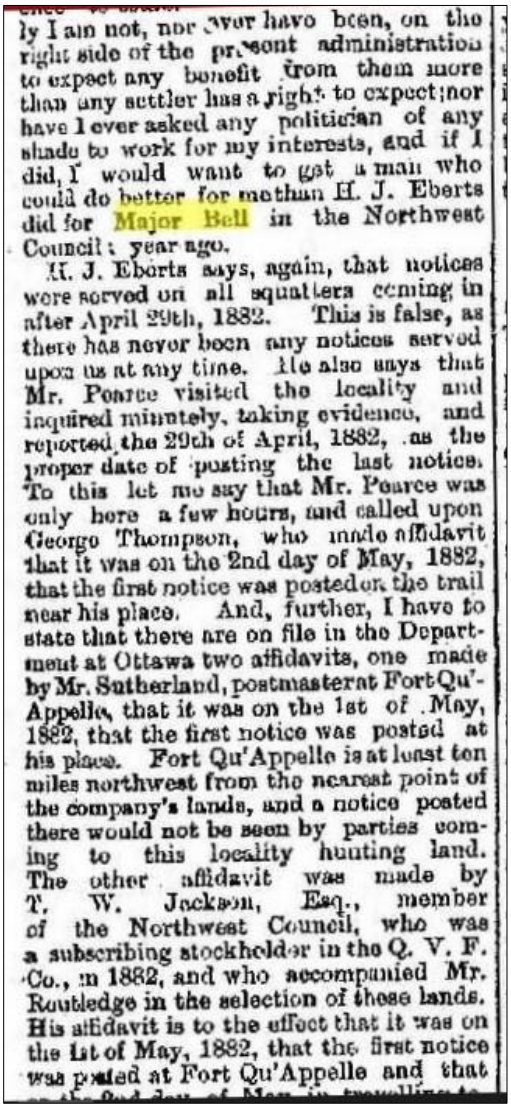
tlers, that every man would have to leave, no matter how long he had been on the land.

Again, Mr. Eberts says that shortly after the posting of these notices, prospective squatters began to arrive, among them myself and one Stiles, and that before we had time to pitch our tent, Mr. Routledge, the superintendent, called upon us, and told us that these lands belonged to the company, and forbade us squatting there. Mr. Eberts states a wilful lie, which I am prepared to prove, as Mr. Routledge and myself never met until I had been on my land nearly a month, and when I did meet him, it was three miles from my place. Nor did he then, or even after, forbid me occupying the land. And further, in July, 1883, Mr. Routledge, in passing over my place looking for his horses, in answer to my question of how he liked my location, replied that it was very fine, and that he had never been in the vicinity of that section before.

Mr. Eberts don't know who inspired the settlers to come here, though he knows where the inspiration came from in the shape of money. This assertion is as base as it is mean, and shows how low a man will stoop to bolster up a poor cause. This I well know, that many of the men here have had hard times enough to make ends meet with the small amount of capital they had, and have had to work hard to get means to make their improvements. No one knows this better than myself, and if Mr. Eberts thinks we must go, perhaps he would like to take a hand in the eviction. He also says that others, among whom I may be classed, trust to political influence to establish a claim. Unfortunate-

Part 1 of 5: 168 kb

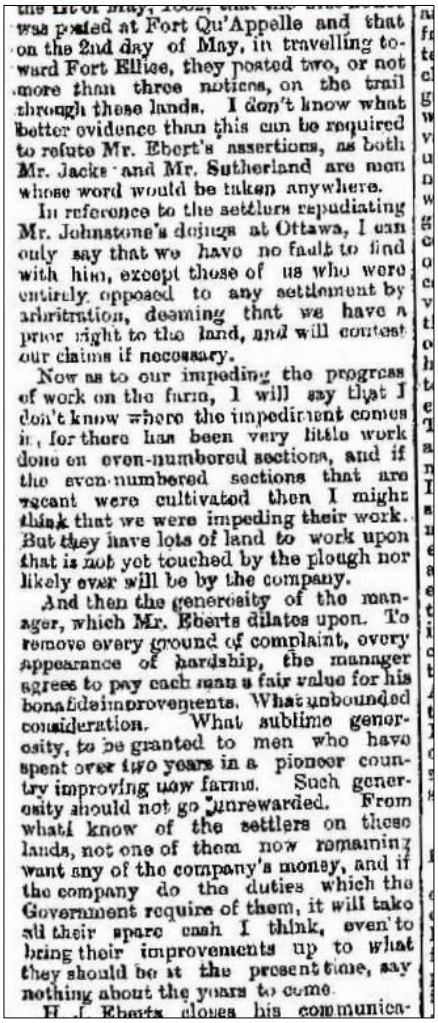
Part 2 of 5: 154 kb



ly I am not, nor ever have been, on the right side of the present administration to expect any benefit from them more than any settler has a right to expect; nor have I ever asked any politician of any shade to work for my interests, and if I did, I would want to get a man who could do better for me than H. J. Eberts did for Major Bell in the Northwest Council a year ago.

H. J. Eberts says, again, that notices were served on all squatters coming in after April 29th, 1882. This is false, as there has never been any notices served upon us at any time. He also says that Mr. Pearce visited the locality and inquired minutely, taking evidence, and reported the 29th of April, 1882, as the proper date of posting the last notice. To this let me say that Mr. Pearce was only here a few hours, and called upon George Thompson, who made affidavit that it was on the 2nd day of May, 1882, that the first notice was posted on the trail near his place. And, further, I have to state that there are on file in the Department at Ottawa two affidavits, one made by Mr. Sutherland, postmaster at Fort Qu'Appelle, that it was on the 1st of May, 1882, that the first notice was posted at his place. Fort Qu'Appelle is at least ten miles northwest from the nearest point of the company's lands, and a notice posted there would not be seen by parties coming to this locality hunting land. The other affidavit was made by T. W. Jackson, Esq., member of the Northwest Council, who was a subscribing stockholder in the Q. V. F. Co., in 1882, and who accompanied Mr. Routledge in the selection of these lands. His affidavit is to the effect that it was on the 1st of May, 1882, that the first notice was posted at Fort Qu'Appelle and that

Part 3 of 5: 163 kb



was posted at Fort Qu'Appelle and that on the 2nd day of May, in travelling toward Fort Ellice, they posted two, or not more than three notices, on the trail through these lands. I don't know what better evidence than this can be required to refute Mr. Ebert's assertions, as both Mr. Jacks and Mr. Sutherland are men whose word would be taken anywhere.

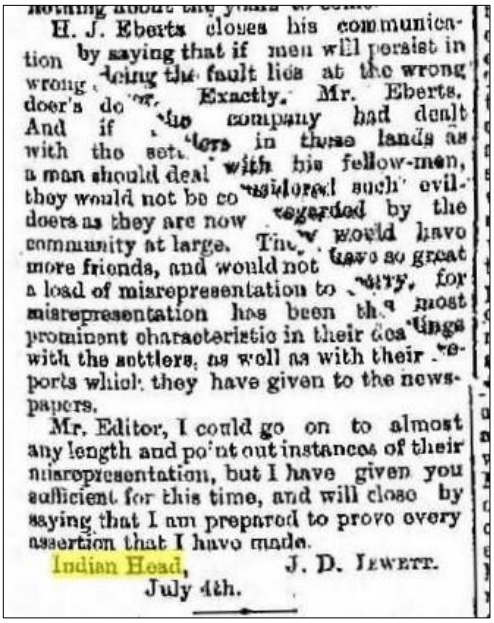
In reference to the settlers repudiating Mr. Johnstone's doings at Ottawa, I can only say that we have no fault to find with him, except those of us who were entirely opposed to any settlement by arbitration, deeming that we have a prior right to the land, and will contest our claims if necessary.

Now as to our impeding the progress of work on the farm, I will say that I don't know where the impediment comes in, for there has been very little work done on even-numbered sections, and if the even-numbered sections that are vacant were cultivated then I might think that we were impeding their work. But they have lots of land to work upon that is not yet touched by the plough nor likely ever will be by the company.

And then the generosity of the manager, which Mr. Eberts dilates upon. To remove every ground of complaint, every appearance of hardship, the manager agrees to pay each man a fair value for his bonafide improvements. What unbounded consideration. What sublime generosity, to be granted to men who have spent over two years in a pioneer country improving new farms. Such generosity should not go unrewarded. From what I know of the settlers on these lands, not one of them now remaining want any of the company's money, and if the company do the duties which the Government require of them, it will take all their spare cash I think, even to bring their improvements up to what they should be at the present time, say nothing about the years to come.

H. J. Eberts closes his communica-

Part 4 of 5: 176 kb



H. J. Eberts closes his communication by saying that if men will persist in wrong doing the fault lies at the wrong doer's door. Exactly, Mr. Eberts. And if the company had dealt with the settlers in these lands as a man should deal with his fellow-men, they would not be considered such evil-doers as they are now regarded by the community at large. They would have more friends, and would not have so great a load of misrepresentation to carry, for misrepresentation has been the most prominent characteristic in their dealings with the settlers, as well as with their reports which they have given to the newspapers.

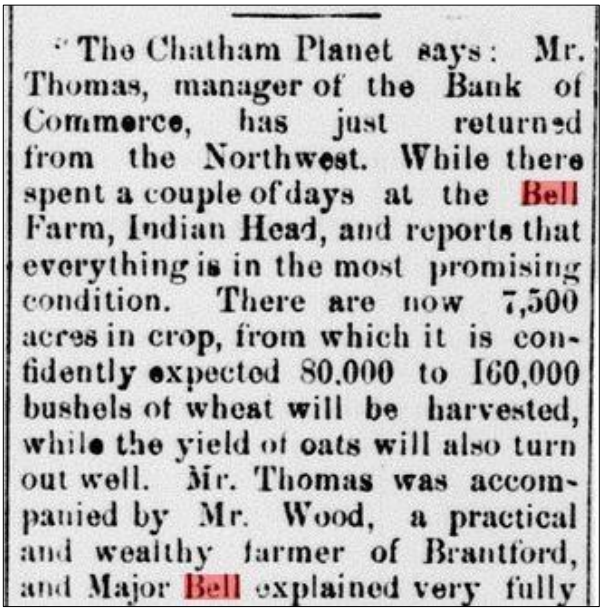
Mr. Editor, I could go on to almost any length and point out instances of their misrepresentation, but I have given you sufficient for this time, and will close by saying that I am prepared to prove every assertion that I have made.

Indian Head, J. D. Jewett.
July 4th.

Part 5 of 5: 113 kb

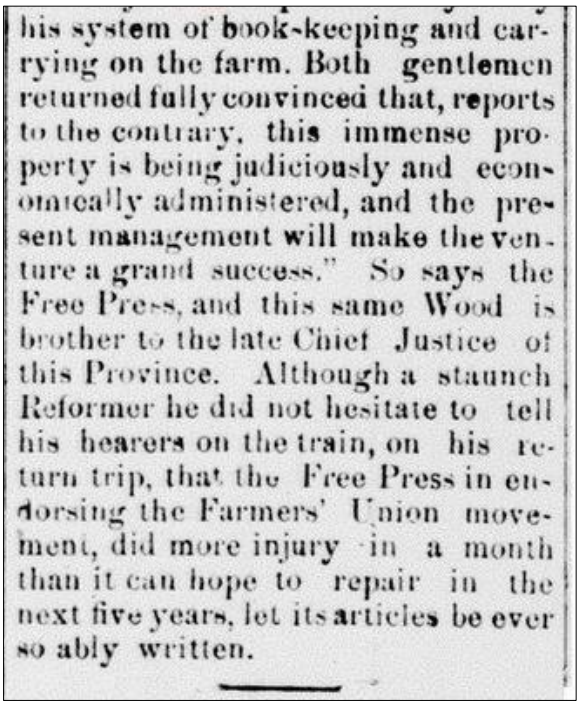
1884 – July 8 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 - another advertisement for renting the Bell Farm Hotel

1884 – July 10 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 8 – Thomas (from Chatham, Ont.) and Wood (from Brantford, Ont.) visit Bell Farm



The Chatham Planet says: Mr. Thomas, manager of the Bank of Commerce, has just returned from the Northwest. While there spent a couple of days at the Bell Farm, Indian Head, and reports that everything is in the most promising condition. There are now 7,500 acres in crop, from which it is confidently expected 80,000 to 160,000 bushels of wheat will be harvested, while the yield of oats will also turn out well. Mr. Thomas was accompanied by Mr. Wood, a practical and wealthy farmer of Brantford, and Major Bell explained very fully

Part 1 96 kb



his system of book-keeping and carrying on the farm. Both gentlemen returned fully convinced that, reports to the contrary, this immense property is being judiciously and economically administered, and the present management will make the venture a grand success." So says the Free Press, and this same Wood is brother to the late Chief Justice of this Province. Although a staunch Reformer he did not hesitate to tell his hearers on the train, on his return trip, that the Free Press in endorsing the Farmers' Union movement, did more injury in a month than it can hope to repair in the next five years, let its articles be ever so ably written.

Part 2 98 kb

1884 – July 10 – Robert Miller Christy first visits the Bell Farm, and began his report, as published in 1885; he visited again on Aug. 20, 1884 and signed the Bell Farm Visitor's Register (# 55):

especially about the shoulders of the animals. Some seeds I brought home penetrated half an inch into the shoulder of one of our sheep. Most settlers are well aware of this peculiarity, as the seeds also trouble curly-haired dogs and severely prick the legs of any one walking through the grass. I have elsewhere published in detail my observations on this point, and have been able to show that the seeds are only troublesome during about three weeks in the year; that, by running a mowing-machine over the ground infested with the grass, or by keeping the sheep on enclosed ground, they eat the grass down, its seeds never reach maturity, and their harmfulness is destroyed; consequently, the spear-grass need be no serious hindrance to the keeping of sheep in Manitoba. I do not believe the seed has the power of killing animals, as I could never hear of a fatal case, though often told that such had occurred.

The gigantic "Bell Farm," near Indian Head, has gained such world-wide celebrity that I cannot pass on without referring to it, though it lies far to the west of the province of Manitoba. On the 10th of July, 1884, whilst upon a journey from Winnipeg to Medicine Hat, I managed to spare a day for the purpose of visiting the Bell Farm. The following facts are gleaned partly from notes made upon the spot, and partly from information since supplied by Major Bell:—

NOTES ON A VISIT TO THE BELL FARM.*

The Bell Farm lies upon the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 312 miles west from Winnipeg, and close to the town and station of Indian Head, in the Territory of Assiniboia. It is the property of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, which was formed in the year 1881, but it takes its name from its able manager, Major W. R. Bell, who resides upon the spot. The entire area contained within the boundaries of the farm is 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles; but of this a number of sections are the property of the Hudson's Bay Company, while others are reserved by Government for educational purposes, so that the area actually covered by the farm is not more than about 54,000 acres. It is, however, I believe, a fact that Major

* This article appeared in the *Field* on December 27, 1884. It is reprinted (with slight alterations) by the kind permission of the editor.

Bell is the manager of the largest, single, arable farm in the world; but this statement will not bear close examination, for as yet only a comparatively small portion is under cultivation. Neither is it altogether correct to describe the company as a farming company only, since it has two strings to its bow, and is also to some extent a Colonisation Company, as will be hereafter explained.

When, on April 29, 1882, the company obtained possession of the land by special Act of Parliament, it lay more than two hundred miles distant from the nearest railway station. The difficulty of obtaining so large a tract of land, unbroken by the homesteads of settlers, necessitated the location of the farm so far away in the west; but so rapidly was the construction of the railway carried on, that Indian Head was reached, and the line was running through the centre of the farm, within a few months. Nor is the situation of the farm in any respect other than a good one. Much has lately been written of the almost fabulous fertility of the fine black soil of the prairies; and nowhere is the soil better than in the valley of the Qu'Appelle or Calling River, where the farm lies. It is slightly stony, however, in places, and is everywhere marked by the old paths of the buffalo. Several pleasant *coulées*, with streams in their bottoms, intersect the farm. The conditions under which such a large tract was made over to a single private company were that the company should have the land at the exceedingly low price of 1¼ dol. (5s.) per acre, on condition that not less than 4,000 acres were to be broken and brought under cultivation annually for five years, or 20,000 acres in all; but these conditions have probably been found too irksome, for I understand that application is about to be made to Government for their cancellation. It was considered that the advantage to the whole country of bringing so large an amount of land under cultivation would more than compensate for the low price at which it was sold. The general scheme of the company is to bring the land under cultivation, dividing it up into about 250 separate farms of 213 acres, each provided with a good house and buildings. These farms will then be offered for sale to the men who have charge of them, at a valuation price, payable in instalments over a term of years. At present the selling price is from 12 dols. to 20 dols. per acre. The whole of the land is intended ultimately for sale, though the home-farm of about 20,000 acres might be retained by the company if found to be sufficiently profitable. In any case it is expected to be all under cultivation two years hence—*i.e.*, at the end of 1886.

No one visiting the farm will fail to be struck with the idea that in Major Bell the company has a remarkably clear-headed manager. His energy and foresight are made obvious by the perfectly methodic manner in which every operation is carried out—so different from the slip-shod ways of the average settler. Roughly speaking, his system of farming, when complete, will be as follows: Each "section," or square mile, will be divided into three portions of 213 acres each, one of which it is intended to fallow yearly. While the company retains possession of the land, a foreman will be set over about every twelve farms or four sections. I will next speak of what has been and is being done.

The ploughs commenced to "break" the rich, black, prairie soil on June 15, 1882, and, before winter set in, 2,400 acres were ready for cropping the following year. In the middle of August the farm buildings were commenced. As early as possible next spring one half of the broken area was sown with oats, and the other half with wheat. The latter gave an average yield of 19½ bushels per acre, and such of it as was sold (local demand taking nearly the whole of it for seed) realised an average price of one cent over the dollar (4s. 2½d.) per bushel. Some of the later-sown wheat was injured by the early frost on the night of September 7. In the same year (1883) 4,600 additional acres were broken, making 7,000 in all, and the following spring (1884) about 5,500 acres were sown with wheat, 1,200 with oats, and the remainder with flax. This crop was, of course, still on the ground at the time of my visit, and it was a really fine sight which the Major was able to show me during the very enjoyable drive round his farm which he was kind enough to take me. The longest furrow to be seen was two miles in length; several single pieces of wheat covered more than 1,000 acres each; while the largest extended to 1,500 acres. In all directions ploughs were at work tearing up the splendid virgin soil, for an additional 5,500 acres were to be broken before winter, and the entire year's ploughing was expected to reach 12,000 acres. As we gained a slight eminence and were able to look around for miles over the level prairie, seeing, on all sides, fields of waving grain, large expanses of recently-broken ground, horses and men busily engaged in breaking more, the substantial stone farmhouse, with the other farm buildings (including the large circular stone stable) grouped around it, and the sun shining brightly on the zinc roofs of the little houses of the foremen, scattered widely on every side, each with its acre of garden, one could but feel a pardonable pride in the thought that the energy and power of man was thus able to convert what, only three years before, had been an uninhabited waste, into the smiling and prosperous scene then around us.

As we went along I made many notes of the more interesting points mentioned by Major Bell. The whole of the ploughing is done with horses, of which 193 are now kept. The Major will not hear of steam being used, urging (with much force) that, as he would require just as many horses as he now keeps to sow and reap his crops, they may just as well do the ploughing also, instead of standing idle for a good portion of the year while the ploughing is being done by steam. The ploughs used are all sulkies and gang-ploughs, on which the men ride. Each turns more than one furrow, to a depth of rather over three inches, and each is required to travel sixteen miles a day; indeed, it is said that twenty miles forms an average day's work when no accident occurs. The width of the furrows is from fourteen to sixteen inches. At the time of my visit forty-five ploughs were breaking over one hundred acres per day. Breaking is continued during the whole of the summer. After the sod has lain a while to rot, the disc-harrows are passed over it diagonally, cutting it up into lozenge-shaped pieces and leaving it ready for seeding first thing in the spring. "Back-setting" is dispensed with on the farm. As much as

possible of the stubble-ploughing is done in the autumn, so that the seed may be got in the moment after the frost takes its departure in spring. Sowing is done with broadcast seeders, a kind of combination between drill and harrows. Last year twenty-two self-binders by Deering, of Chicago, were used in getting in the crops: but to these there have this year been added twenty-five more by an excellent Canadian firm, the Messrs. Harris, of Brantford, making forty-seven in all. About sixty head of cattle and some pigs are at present kept upon the farm. Barb-wire is largely used for fencing. So great has been the number of visitors to the farm that the company has been compelled to erect, at considerable expense, a large brick hotel at Indian Head; but it is not yet open. The farm has become so well known that there is never any difficulty in getting sufficient men, especially as good wages are given. This summer 160 to 180 men were employed, at 30 dols. per month and board. During the coming winter a much smaller number will be retained at 15 dols. per month. The bareness of the prairie has been enlivened by the planting of such large numbers of small poplar trees that, if all had been planted in a straight line at their present distances apart, they would have extended no less than twenty-four miles. The trees were dug in the "bluffs," or clumps of wood, and set out beside the roads which give access to the different parts of the farm. Altogether the total amount of capital expended upon the farm is upwards of 375,000 dols. (£77,160).

During an afternoon's drive of some miles I had an excellent opportunity of noticing the pieces of wheat through which we passed. In most cases the colour and condition was excellent, and formed a great contrast with the foul and uneven pieces so often grown by the average settler. There were, however, pieces which did not promise nearly so well as the rest. For instance, there was a volunteer crop, that had appeared on a piece of land which had borne a crop the previous year, and had been intended as a fallow this season, and looked so healthy, that it was allowed to grow by way of experiment—not, however, with very good results; for I have since heard that it did not yield more than on average of six bushels per acre, though it certainly promised more in July. This was, of course, fall or winter wheat, which has as yet only been grown experimentally in the North-west, and even then with but little success. Then there were 640 acres sown with wheat that had been injured by frost the previous autumn through being backward, gophers having eaten down the first spring-growth. About half of the area sown was in good condition, the soil being slightly moist; the other half was thin and poor, a drier piece of ground apparently not suiting it; and, as it lay close to the house, it proved a great eyesore to Major Bell. The whole, however, has not yielded badly, for the product is now estimated at twenty bushels per acre.

To me the Major's statements as to what it cost him to produce a bushel of wheat were of chief interest, as doubtless they will be to most readers. He assured me that, as near as he could calculate, the cost to him of growing and placing on the rail at Indian Head each bushel of wheat that he produces is from 30c. to 33c. (1s. 3d. to 1s. 4½d.), which he also estimates to be 40 per cent. lower than the

summer fallow

cost to the average settler. Further, he says that not more than 7 c. to 9 c. (3½d. to 4½d.) per bushel is paid for manual labour. At the present time the freight from Indian Head to Montreal (1,746 miles) is 32 c. (1s. 4d.) per bushel, but it will be lower next year, and Major Bell is confident that when, two years hence, the whole of his home farm is under the plough, he will be able to lay prime hard "Red Fyfe" wheat, of the excellent quality usually produced in the North-West, down in Liverpool at a cost price of 75 c. (3s. 1½d.) per bushel, or 6 dols. (25s.) per quarter, or even lower.

Of the financial standing of the concern I am not competent to speak, nor am I able to draw any comparison between the Bell Farm and the large wheat-farms of the United States, though I have visited the Dalrymple Farm in Dakota.

The following calculations, though they may not give any very valuable results, will be interesting, as showing the magnitude of the operations which Major Bell carries on. A plough having a single share only, cutting 12 in. wide, would require to travel eight miles and a quarter in order to plough an acre. If the whole of this year's ploughing were to be done with one such plough, it would require to travel 99,000 miles, or about four and one-eighth times round the globe, which would occupy nearly sixteen years and a half at the rate of two acres per day, or nearly thirty-three years if oxen were used, and one acre a day only were ploughed. If a single team were to have started to cut this year's crops with a 5 ft.-swarth machine, and to have travelled twenty miles per day, they would have taken 577 days to accomplish the work. When the entire home farm is under cultivation, the estimated yield of wheat will be upwards of half a million bushels, which would require a train consisting of over 1,000 of the ordinary grain-cars to carry it all away.

Although farmers in Manitoba suffer from various disadvantages, such as short summers, cold winters, unseasonable frosts, want of labour, and the like, still, many of the principal disadvantages of farming in England are absent. There are no rent-days, no tithes, no sparrows, no rats, no costly manures to be bought, no burdensome taxes, no antiquated landlord's restrictions, and but few insect pests. Sometimes the crops are injured by frost or hailstorms; but this is not often. Sparrows will, doubtless, arrive in due time, as also rats. Farmers consider gophers injurious to their grain-crops, and often boast of having shot 150 or 200 in a year. A gopher is a small burrowing animal, of which two species (*Spermophilus franklini* and *S. tridecem-lineatus*) are common on the prairie. One farmer told me that he had recently taken as much as half a bushel of good wheat out of a gopher's store-house. The cosmopolitan English mouse has not yet found its way to Manitoba; but settlers

PLUS: this brief mention on p. 159

producing capabilities of Manitoba. There was also an exhibit of Red Fyfe wheat grown on the Bell Farm, which, on account of its purity, was being sold at the rate of 1 dol. 25 cents per bushel for seed.

1884 – July 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Woods leaves Indian Head for Mountains; telephone completed, and track for elevator.

> "**INDIAN HEAD – A FAREWELL DINNER**- INDIAN HEAD, July 17 – J.G. Woods, late secretary of the Bell Farm Company, who is leaving for the Mountains, was given a farewell dinner by his friends, at the Commercial Hotel, this evening. It was a brilliant affair, the tables were laid for thirty guests, and all had a pleasant time.
>
> **Local Items.** The telephone around the Bell Farm and the town is completed, as also the side track to the elevator."

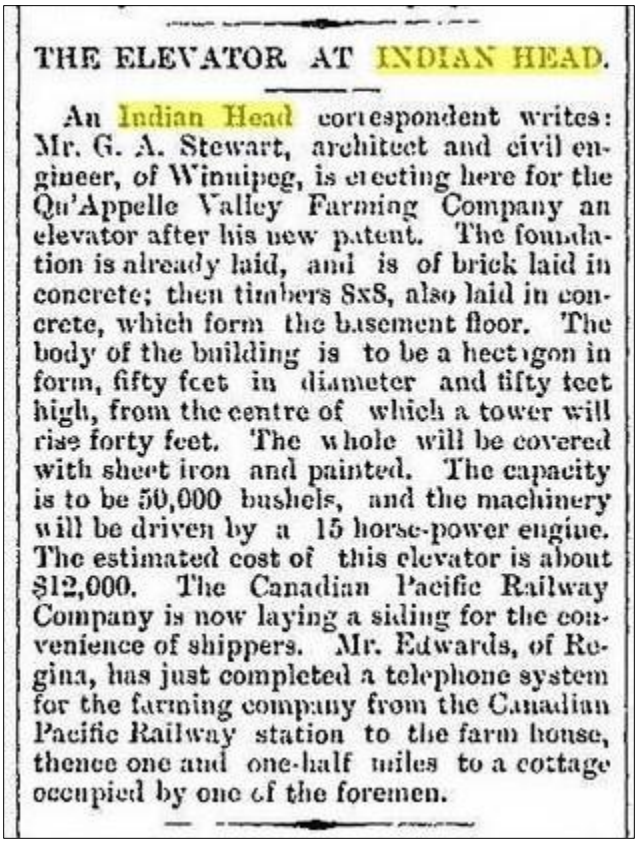
1884 – July 19 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Major Bell is in Winnipeg at the Queen's Hotel.

> "**PERSONAL MENTION**. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, arrived here from the west yesterday afternoon. . . . . Major Bell arrived in town from Indian Head yesterday, and is a guest at the Queen's."

1884 – July 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* - can't find article

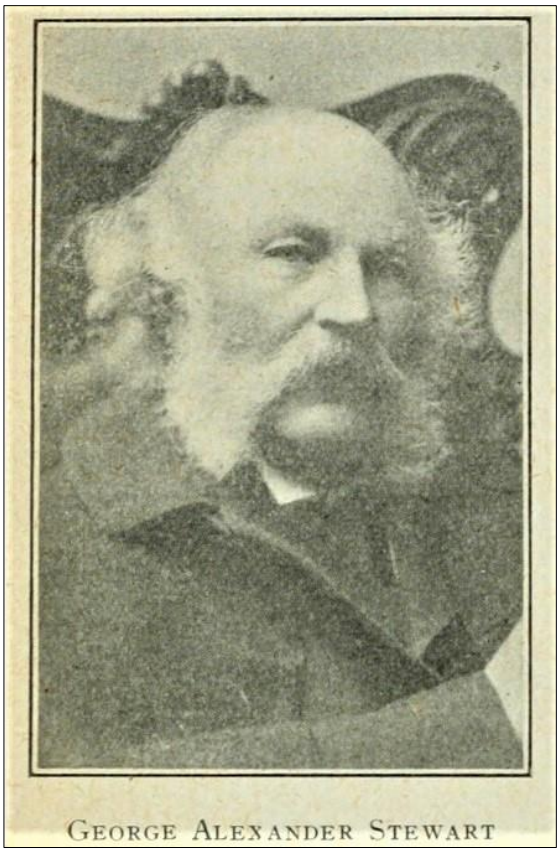
> Bell elected first Reeve for RM of Indian Head # 156 - see p. 9 Indian Head history

1884 – July 22 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – George Alexander Stewart, architect – civil engineer, to build Elevator at Bell Farm – Edwards builds telephone line



THE ELEVATOR AT INDIAN HEAD.

An Indian Head correspondent writes: Mr. G. A. Stewart, architect and civil engineer, of Winnipeg, is erecting here for the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company an elevator after his new patent. The foundation is already laid, and is of brick laid in concrete; then timbers 8x8, also laid in concrete, which form the basement floor. The body of the building is to be a hectagon in form, fifty feet in diameter and fifty feet high, from the centre of which a tower will rise forty feet. The whole will be covered with sheet iron and painted. The capacity is to be 50,000 bushels, and the machinery will be driven by a 15 horse-power engine. The estimated cost of this elevator is about $12,000. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is now laying a siding for the convenience of shippers. Mr. Edwards, of Regina, has just completed a telephone system for the farming company from the Canadian Pacific Railway station to the farm house, thence one and one-half miles to a cottage occupied by one of the foremen.

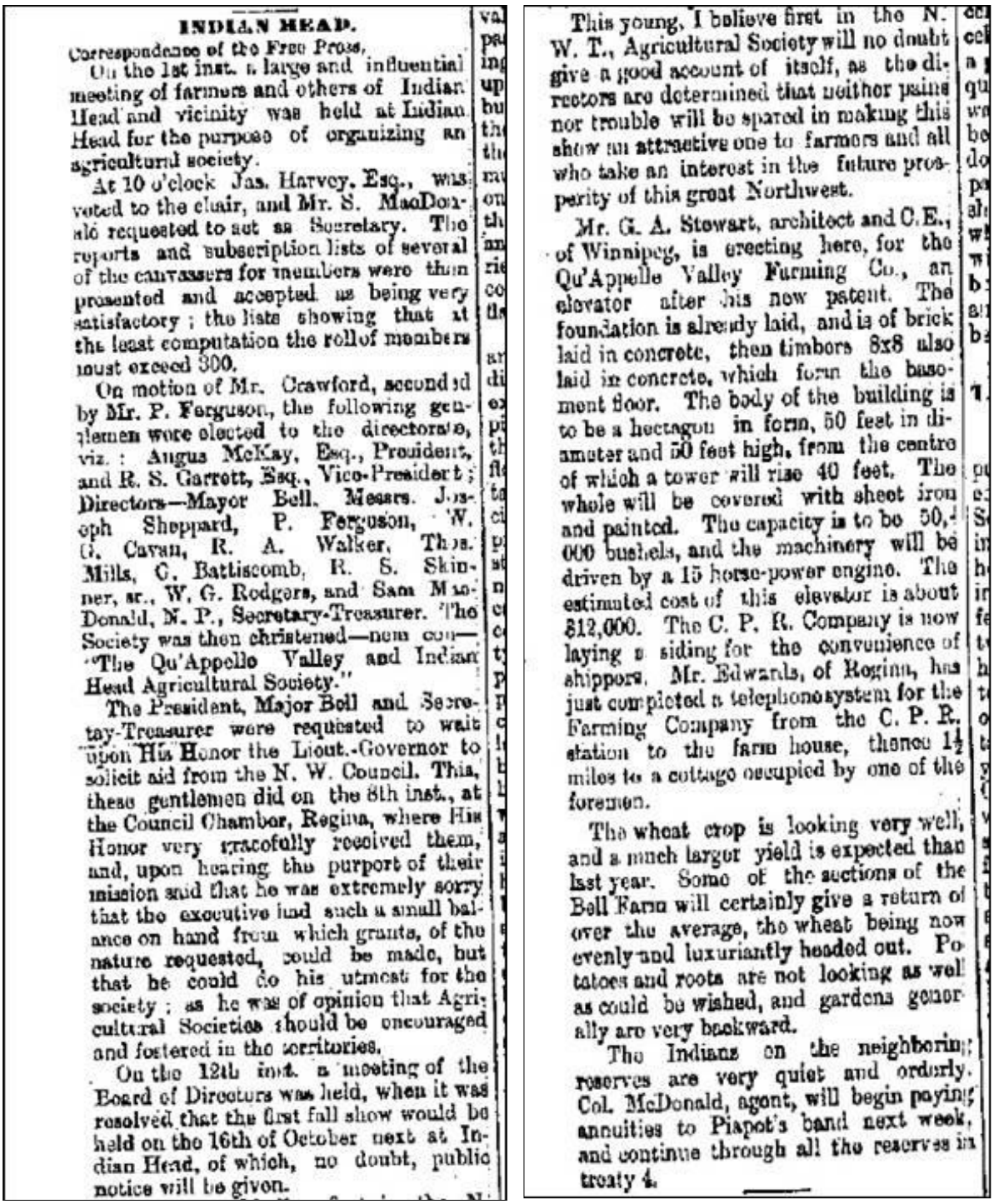


GEORGE ALEXANDER STEWART

1884 – July 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Agricultural Society; and G.A. Stewart, Winnipeg – elevator architect

Stewart is erecting a hexagonal wooden grain elevator for Bell at Indian Head, on a brick laid in concrete foundation (Frank: This is a different structure from the Flour Mill designed and erected in 1885 by the Pray Manufacturing Company, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.)

Bell elected a Director of the Qu'Appelle Valley & Indian Head Agricultural Society



INDIAN HEAD.

Correspondence of the Free Press.

On the 1st inst. a large and influential meeting of farmers and others of Indian Head and vicinity was held at Indian Head for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society.

At 10 o'clock Jas. Harvey, Esq., was voted to the chair, and Mr. S. MacDonald requested to act as Secretary. The reports and subscription lists of several of the canvassers for members were then presented and accepted as being very satisfactory; the lists showing that at the least computation the roll of members must exceed 300.

On motion of Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. P. Ferguson, the following gentlemen were elected to the directorate, viz.: Angus McKay, Esq., President, and R. S. Garrett, Esq., Vice-President; Directors—Mayor Bell, Messrs. Joseph Sheppard, P. Ferguson, W. G. Cavan, R. A. Walker, Thos. Mills, C. Battiscomb, R. S. Skinner, sr., W. G. Rodgers, and Sam MacDonald, N. P., Secretary-Treasurer. The Society was then christened—nem con—"The Qu'Appelle Valley and Indian Head Agricultural Society."

The President, Major Bell and Secretay-Treasurer were requested to wait upon His Honor the Lieut.-Governor to solicit aid from the N. W. Council. This, these gentlemen did on the 8th inst., at the Council Chamber, Regina, where His Honor very graceofully received them, and, upon hearing the purport of their mission said that he was extremely sorry that the executive had such a small balance on hand from which grants, of the nature requested, could be made, but that he could do his utmost for the society; as he was of opinion that Agricultural Societies should be encouraged and fostered in the territories.

On the 12th inst. a meeting of the Board of Directors was held, when it was resolved that the first fall show would be held on the 16th of October next at Indian Head, of which, no doubt, public notice will be given.

This young, I believe first in the N. W. T., Agricultural Society will no doubt give a good account of itself, as the directors are determined that neither pains nor trouble will be spared in making this show an attractive one to farmers and all who take an interest in the future prosperity of this great Northwest.

Mr. G. A. Stewart, architect and C.E., of Winnipeg, is erecting here, for the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., an elevator after his new patent. The foundation is already laid, and is of brick laid in concrete, then timbers 8x8 also laid in concrete, which form the basement floor. The body of the building is to be a hectagon in form, 50 feet in diameter and 50 feet high, from the centre of which a tower will rise 40 feet. The whole will be covered with sheet iron and painted. The capacity is to be 50,000 bushels, and the machinery will be driven by a 15 horse-power engine. The estimated cost of this elevator is about $12,000. The C. P. R. Company is now laying a siding for the convenience of shippers. Mr. Edwards, of Regina, has just completed a telephone system for the Farming Company from the C. P. R. station to the farm house, thence 1½ miles to a cottage occupied by one of the foremen.

The wheat crop is looking very well, and a much larger yield is expected than last year. Some of the sections of the Bell Farm will certainly give a return of over the average, the wheat being now evenly and luxuriantly headed out. Potatoes and roots are not looking as well as could be wished, and gardens generally are very backward.

The Indians on the neighboring reserves are very quiet and orderly. Col. McDonald, agent, will begin paying annuities to Piapot's band next week, and continue through all the reserves in treaty 4.

1884 – no specific date – Dept. of Agriculture, in 1886 Report- , p. 101 *A Guide Book Containing Information for Intending Settlers –**NOTE*** - location of Bell Farm cottage in groups of four

DISTRICT OF ASSINIBOIA.

This district comprises an area of about 95,000 square miles. It is bounded on the south by the International boundary line, on the east by the western boundary of Manitoba, on the north by the 9th Correction line of the Dominion Lands System of Survey into Townships, which is near the 52nd parallel of latitude. On the west it is bounded by the line dividing the 10th and 11th Ranges of Townships west of the 4th initial meridian of the Dominion Lands Survey.

The Valley of the Qu'Appelle is in the District of Assiniboia, being on the second plateau or steppe of the continent, reaching from Red River to the Rocky Mountains. This valley is a favoured part of the North-West, and settlement in it is proceeding with surprising rapidity. The Dominion Government has an immigrant station at Troy, and this district has been selected for the large farming experiment known as the "Bell Farm." This scheme has features which have interest beyond a simple private enterprise on a very large scale. The experiment embraces a scheme of a wheat farm of a hundred square miles, or 64,000 acres, but so divided as to make it also a colonizing scheme, the intention being to sell the whole out to the workers after a few years' operations. A section of one square mile of 640 acres is divided into three equal portions of about 213 acres, and the cultivation of this third of a section is placed in the hands of one man. Comfortable houses and stables are built at the corners of these third sections in such way that four houses and four stables come together, making, as it were, a little village on the road allowance. A man and his team are able to cultivate two-thirds of this apportionment, leaving one-third fallow every year, thus leaving the whole fallow once in three years, as well for recuperation as to destroy weeds, some kinds of which are apt, with the best cultivation, to make their appearance in wheat. The harvesting is done by the self-binder, and the threshing by the powerful steam machinery of the farm. The work is thoroughly systematized; and the whole of the buildings were about to be connected by telephone shortly after the writer of these lines left this farm a few months ago. The average crop of wheat in 1873 was 21 bushels to the acre, much of this grown on the first turning of the sod. The yield in 1884 was very bountiful, and much over that of the previous year. In order to save teaming very large weights of wheat, it is put in large wooden

218 kb

Summer fallow **Note:** 1873 reference above is a typo error, should be 1883

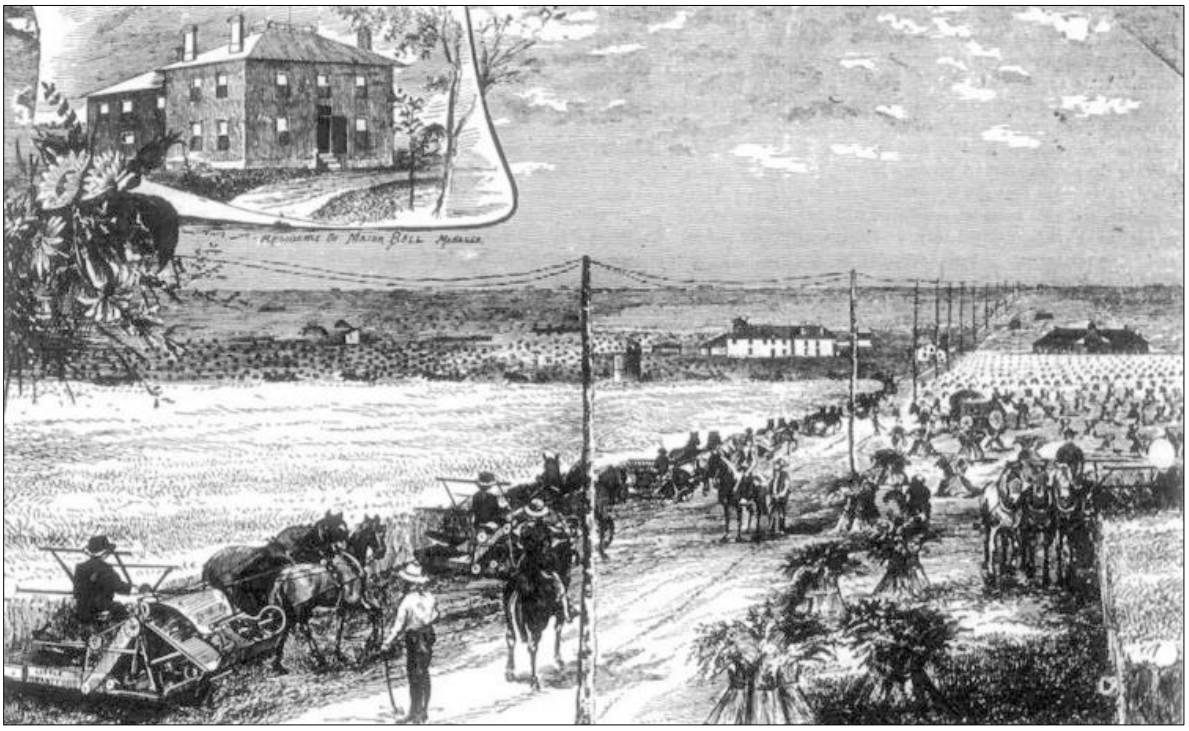
tanks or receivers spread over the farm, as it comes from the powerful steam threshers which are used. The wheat produced is of the very highest quality, and often weighs 65 lbs. to the bushel. Comparatively high wages (£84 stg. a year) are paid to the men employed, and each has a house and one acre of ground, rent free. These uniform arrangements, and division of men and horses at equal points over the immense area of the farm, with just as much placed under one man's charge as he can comfortably manage, so simplifies the control of the whole as to place it under easy command from the centre of operations. The point of greatest attention of all is bestowed upon the care and feeding of the horses, as the source of motive power for the farming operations. The horses are, however, worked to their capacity. It seems to follow naturally that the men who work these good sized farms of 213 acres, and who are highly paid, and made as comfortable as possible, would embrace the opportunity that is to be offered them of becoming possessors of them; the whole scheme thus melting into one of uniform colonization of a hundred square miles. Major Bell is the able projector and manager; and the scheme so far is reported to be largely pecuniarily successful.

125 kb

1884 – July 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* – p. 3 – Telephone system between town and Bell Far completed

"Mr. Edwards, of Regina, has just completed a telephone system for the Farming Company from the C.P. R. station to the farm house, thence 1½ miles to a cottage occupied by one of the foremen."

The following illustration shows this telephone line:



318 kb *View from south to north along road allowance – large white building is Bell Farmhouse*

Source: Feb 1885 *Farmer's Advocate* (Vol 20,No 230), p. 41.

—THE—

"LITTLE BRANTFORD"

FOLDING BINDER.

JUST THE MACHINE THAT CANADIAN FARMERS WANT!

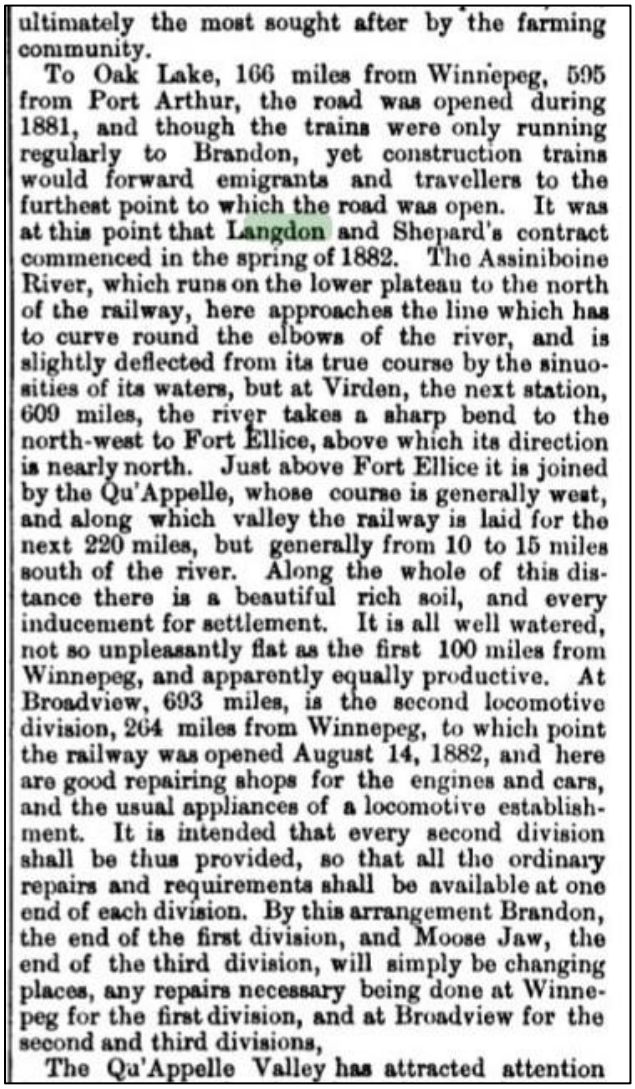
Now Used on all the Principal Farms in Canada, including the farm of The Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture; The Ontario Experimental Farm; The Bell Farm, using 25 Brantford Binders; The Edgely Farm, using 8 Brantford Binders; The Conmee Farm, using 6 Brantford Binders; The Bow Park Farm, and many other leading Farms throughout the Dominion.

Source: Feb 1885 *Farmer's Advocate* (Vol 20,No 230), p. 61. – reference to use of the "Little Brantford Folding Binder" at the Bell Farm

1884 – July 25 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Excursions to the Bell Farm

> **"Excursion to Bell Farm**. It has been suggested that the Canadian Pacific Railway hold an excursion to the Bell farm on the civic holiday, in order to give Winnipeggers an opportunity to view the magnificent wheat fields there. Comparatively few citizens have ever seen 3,000 acres of growing wheat and 2,000 acres of oats in one vast field. Although the distance is considerable, it is thought that if the excursion train started the previous evening and returned the night of the holiday it would work all right." [Frank's Note: the "3,000" might be "5,000" – as the type is difficult to read.]

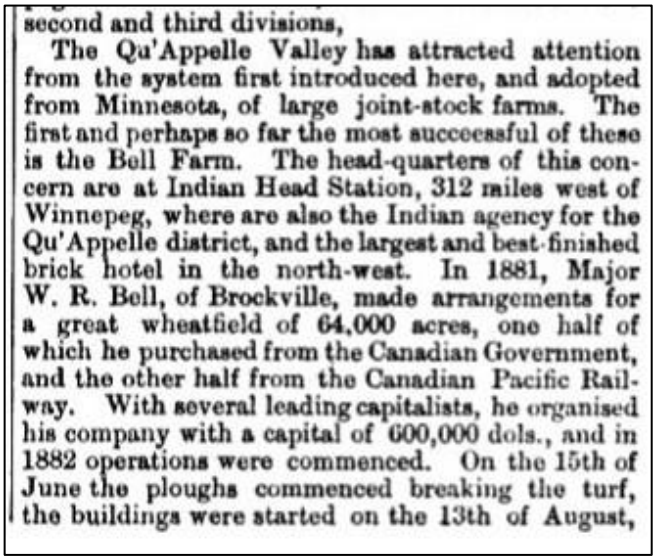
1884 – July 25 – *Engineering*, Vol. 38, p. 77-78 – Report on establishment of the Bell Farm in 1882; Langdon & Sheperd contracts for CPR Line from Oak Lake to Calgary – summer of 1882



ultimately the most sought after by the farming community.

To Oak Lake, 166 miles from Winnepeg, 595 from Port Arthur, the road was opened during 1881, and though the trains were only running regularly to Brandon, yet construction trains would forward emigrants and travellers to the furthest point to which the road was open. It was at this point that Langdon and Shepard's contract commenced in the spring of 1882. The Assiniboine River, which runs on the lower plateau to the north of the railway, here approaches the line which has to curve round the elbows of the river, and is slightly deflected from its true course by the sinuosities of its waters, but at Virden, the next station, 609 miles, the river takes a sharp bend to the north-west to Fort Ellice, above which its direction is nearly north. Just above Fort Ellice it is joined by the Qu'Appelle, whose course is generally west, and along which valley the railway is laid for the next 220 miles, but generally from 10 to 15 miles south of the river. Along the whole of this distance there is a beautiful rich soil, and every inducement for settlement. It is all well watered, not so unpleasantly flat as the first 100 miles from Winnepeg, and apparently equally productive. At Broadview, 693 miles, is the second locomotive division, 264 miles from Winnepeg, to which point the railway was opened August 14, 1882, and here are good repairing shops for the engines and cars, and the usual appliances of a locomotive establishment. It is intended that every second division shall be thus provided, so that all the ordinary repairs and requirements shall be available at one end of each division. By this arrangement Brandon, the end of the first division, and Moose Jaw, the end of the third division, will simply be changing places, any repairs necessary being done at Winnepeg for the first division, and at Broadview for the second and third divisions,

The Qu'Appelle Valley has attracted attention



second and third divisions,

The Qu'Appelle Valley has attracted attention from the system first introduced here, and adopted from Minnesota, of large joint-stock farms. The first and perhaps so far the most successful of these is the Bell Farm. The head-quarters of this concern are at Indian Head Station, 312 miles west of Winnepeg, where are also the Indian agency for the Qu'Appelle district, and the largest and best-finished brick hotel in the north-west. In 1881, Major W. R. Bell, of Brockville, made arrangements for a great wheatfield of 64,000 acres, one half of which he purchased from the Canadian Government, and the other half from the Canadian Pacific Railway. With several leading capitalists, he organised his company with a capital of 600,000 dols., and in 1882 operations were commenced. On the 15th of June the ploughs commenced breaking the turf, the buildings were started on the 13th of August,

Part 1 of 3 - Langdon & Shepard, CPR line 128 KB Part 2 of 3 – Bell Farm 314 kb

and 2700 acres of land were seeded with wheat which produced an average yield of something over 20 bushels to the acre, and was sold in the fall at the elevator at Indian Head at 89 cents, 3s. 9d. sterling, per bushel, or 30s. per quarter. In September, 1883, no less than forty farm-houses had been built, 9000 acres were under the plough, of which 3400 had yielded excellent crops, over 90,000 bushels of very superior wheat, and the whole was working in perfect order. During the last year they built twenty-two homesteads, in addition to eighteen the year before, each with a stable attached, at a cost of 800 dols. each, besides two barracks for the extra hands employed during harvest. They erected, besides a granary for 30,000 bushels and a seed granary for the farm, a blacksmith's shop, and other necessaries, the gross expenditure to the end of 1883 being 244,720 dols., of which 162,346 dols. had been laid out during that year on capital account alone. This Bell Farm aims at more than the Minnesota idea of a large farm; it is in fact a huge colonisation scheme, intended to bring the land first into cultivation with the facilities due to sufficient capital, division of labour, and thorough organisation, and when this has been accomplished to divide the 100 square miles that the farm now covers into 300 farms, each with a comfortable residence, stabling, and shedding enough for the stock. It is then intended to value these farms with the stock and implements upon each, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements are each to have the offer of his own farm at the valuation price, he paying for the same in five or ten annual instalments. In the mean time each man receives 84*l*. per annum as wages, and his house and one acre of garden ground rent free. Major Bell calculates that they will be able to get 9000 acres under wheat in 1884, 18,000 acres the next year, and 25,000 acres in 1886, by which time he expects to have for sale 500,000 bushels of wheat for the year's surplus.

In one respect this wheat district is remarkable, and that is for the quality of the grain produced. Mr. Archibald, the well-known proprietor of the Dundas Mills, in Southern Minnesota, visited Manitoba for the purpose of finding a seed that should improve their spring wheat, the quality of which he found was gradually deteriorating or softening, and he wanted a mixture that would restore its hardness. This he found in Manitoba, but the thing that astonished him more was the yield of this superior quality of wheat. "Look," said he, "we have had a good harvest in Minnesota, but you will only find two well-formed grains in each group or cluster forming a row, but here in Canada, the rule is three grains in each cluster. That is the difference between 20 and 30 bushels per acre." There is a physical cause for this improvement in the Manitoba and Assiniboia wheat over that grown south of the line in the United States. The nearer the northern limit of its growth the finer is the quality, the soil is better suited for it, and the duration of the sunshine is longer when the ears are ripening. From the 15th of June to the 1st of July there are nearly two hours more daylight in Manitoba than in Ohio. It is not heat alone that is wanted to bring wheat to maturity, but the greater the amount of solar light the better the result.

This wheat-growing question for the supply of Great Britain, seems now to be almost settled in favour of this country. For the 36 millions of people to feed in the old country it seems that five bushels per head, or 180,000,000 bushels of wheat, are required.

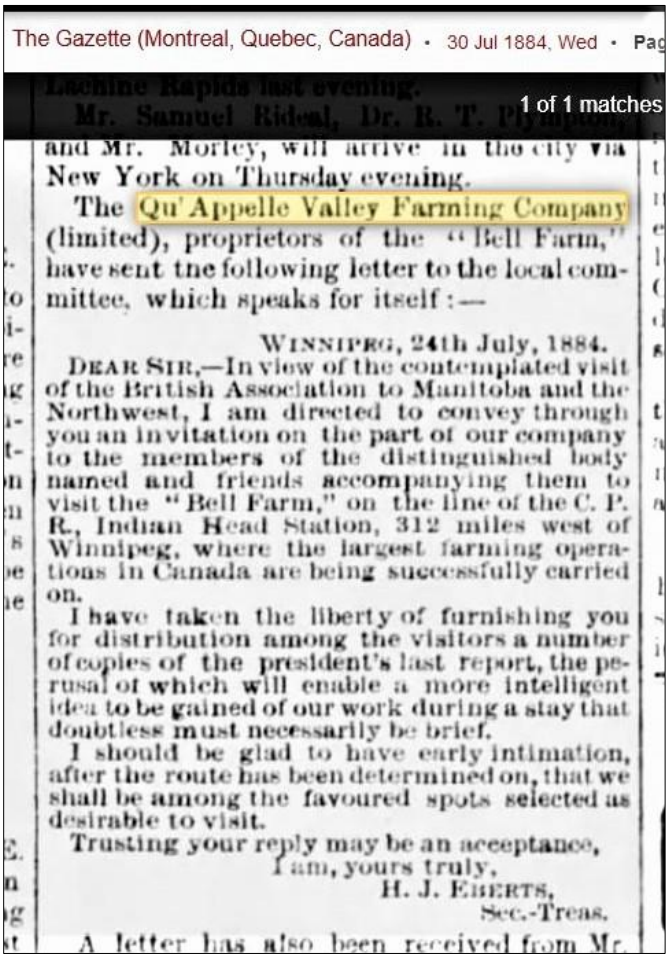
	Quarters.	Bushels.
For the 14 years from 1866 to 1880 the average home production was	11,583,000	92,664,000
And there were imported an average of	10,842,000	86,736,000
Together ...	22,425,000	179,400,000

But during this 14 years the average home production for the first nine years was 12,282,666 quarters, whilst for the last five it was reduced to 9,115,111 quarters, the British-grown wheat having fallen off, in round numbers, 25 per cent. The result is that now it requires an average of 110,000,000 bushels of imported wheat to feed the people per annum, and if the production falls off more, whilst the population increases, the amount required to be imported will be further increased. The fact is that in consequence of the necessity for the use of expensive manures, the high rents, and possibly the exhaustion of the soil, this particular branch of farming is likely to be smaller still than

Part 3 of 3 – Bell Farm 315 kb

[Note: Frank – some of the facts in this 1884 report conflict with what is reported in other sources, and merit further investigation. In Particular, the writer claims that plowing started in mid June 1882; while other sources report that Major Bell hired Sims and Armington from Regina to commence ploughing in mid April. Likewise, the writer states that building construction started in mid August 1882. This does not correspond to other reports that dozens of buildings were erected before freeze up at the end of October. Also, if the Bell entourage arrived in mid June from Oak Lake, why wait two months before staring to begin constructing any buildings. However, if this report is correct, it is the first time that a fixed date – Aug. 13 - has been set for the beginning of construction. I have always presumed that construction started within a week or two of Bell's arrival – i.e. before the end of June 1882.]

1884 – July 30 - *Montreal Gazette*, p. 5 – Invitation to British Association to Visit the Bell Farm



The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) · 30 Jul 1884, Wed · Pag

1 of 1 matches

and Mr. Morley, will arrive in the city via New York on Thursday evening.

The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited), proprietors of the "Bell Farm," have sent the following letter to the local committee, which speaks for itself:—

WINNIPEG, 24th July, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—In view of the contemplated visit of the British Association to Manitoba and the Northwest, I am directed to convey through you an invitation on the part of our company to the members of the distinguished body named and friends accompanying them to visit the "Bell Farm," on the line of the C. P. R., Indian Head Station, 312 miles west of Winnipeg, where the largest farming operations in Canada are being successfully carried on.

I have taken the liberty of furnishing you for distribution among the visitors a number of copies of the president's last report, the perusal of which will enable a more intelligent idea to be gained of our work during a stay that doubtless must necessarily be brief.

I should be glad to have early intimation, after the route has been determined on, that we shall be among the favoured spots selected as desirable to visit.

Trusting your reply may be an acceptance,

I am, yours truly,

H. J. EBERTS,

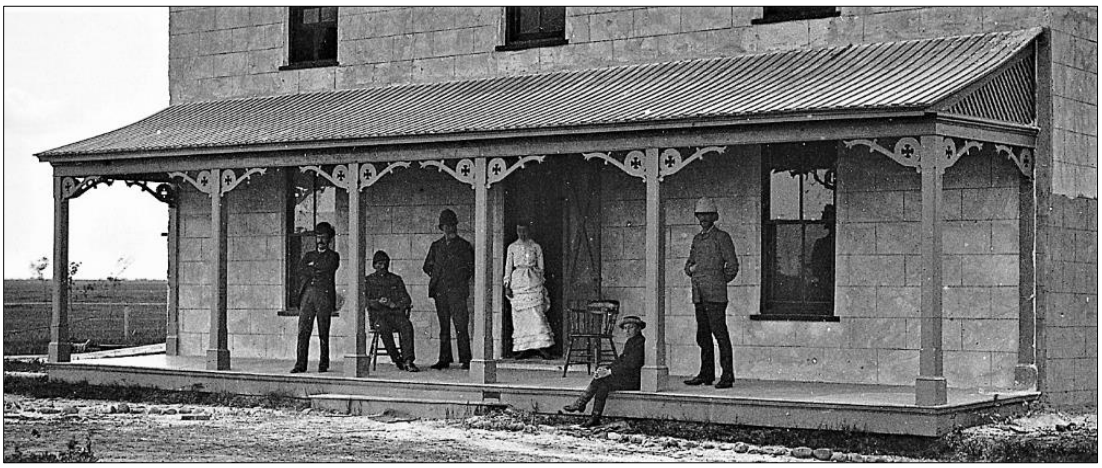
Sec.-Treas.

A letter has also been received from Mr.

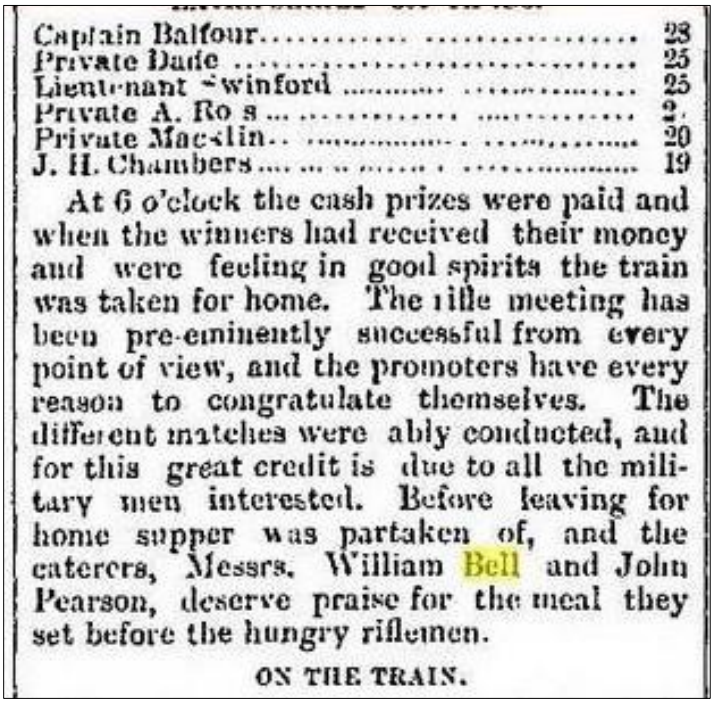
150 kb

1884 – Auntie Martin and Lieut. Gov Dewdney visit – gopher supper

1884 – Visit of Notman photographers from Montreal – take a number of Bell Farm photos, including this photo of Mrs. Katherine [Elwood] Bell in doorway and Major Bell at far right. Others undetermined. (Source: McCord Museum: V1385)



1884 – 8 Aug – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – William Bell caters supper at Rifle Match – maybe Major Bell?



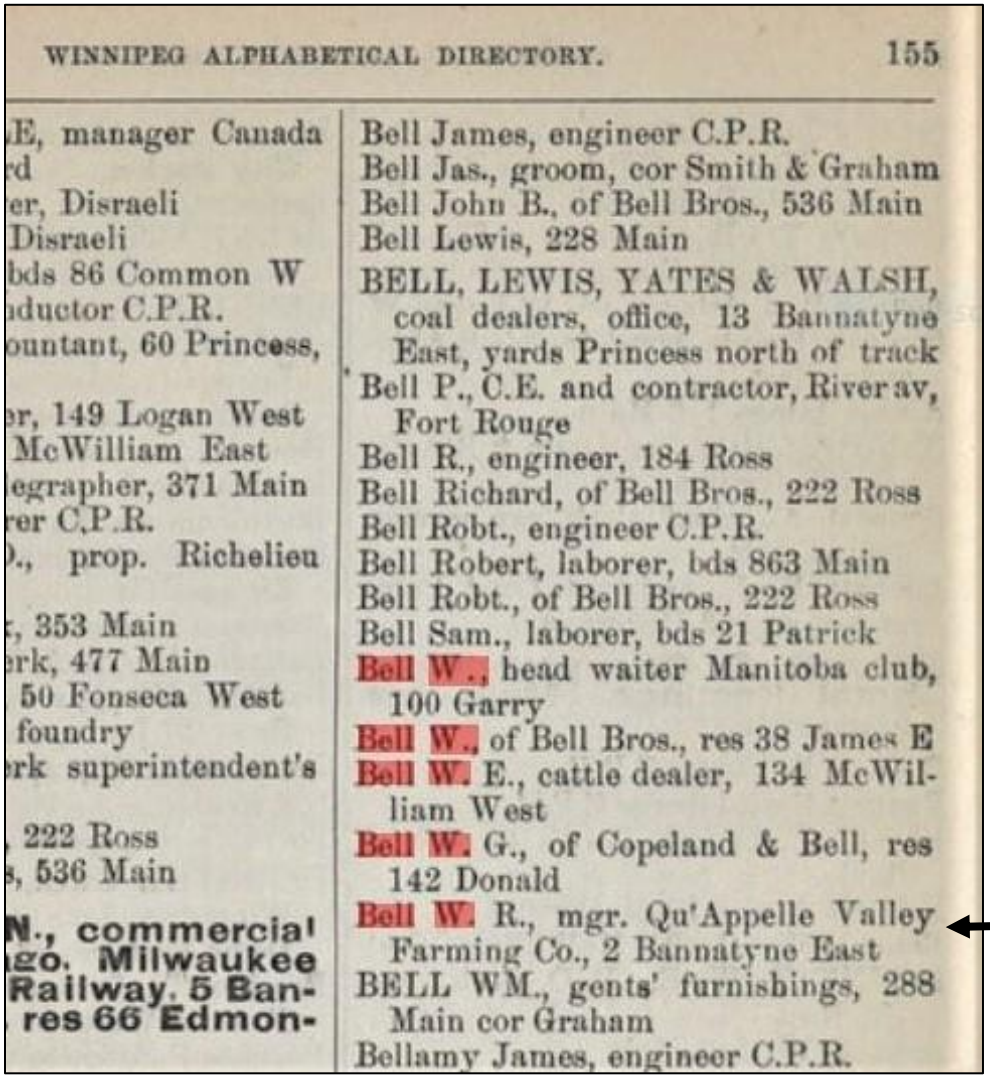
Captain Balfour	23
Private Dade	25
Lieutenant Swinford	25
Private A. Ross	2[illegible]
Private Macklin	20
J. H. Chambers	19

At 6 o'clock the cash prizes were paid and when the winners had received their money and were feeling in good spirits the train was taken for home. The rifle meeting has been pre-eminently successful from every point of view, and the promoters have every reason to congratulate themselves. The different matches were ably conducted, and for this great credit is due to all the military men interested. Before leaving for home supper was partaken of, and the caterers, Messrs. William Bell and John Pearson, deserve praise for the meal they set before the hungry riflemen.

ON THE TRAIN.

[Frank's Note: need to check to see if this is Major Bell or a different William Bell. There is a William G. Bell in Winnipeg in 1885, member of Masonic Lodge. Se: 1885 - 12 Feb - Wpg. Daily Sun, p. 4 - refers to William G. Bell]

[FRANK: i*mage below: Henderson's Winnipeg Directory* – 1884, p. 155 – arrow points to Major Bell. Note all the other people named "W. Bell" in that year alone.] Note also W.Bell – head waiter at the Manitoba Hotel.]



WINNIPEG ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY. 155

...E, manager Canada
...rd
...er, Disraeli
...Disraeli
...bds 86 Common W
...ductor C.P.R.
...ountant, 60 Princess,
...er, 149 Logan West
...McWilliam East
...legrapher, 371 Main
...rer C.P.R.
...., prop. Richelieu
..., 353 Main
...rk, 477 Main
...50 Fonseca West
...foundry
...rk superintendent's
..., 222 Ross
...s, 536 Main
...N., commercial ...go. Milwaukee ...Railway. 5 Ban- ...res 66 Edmon-

Bell James, engineer C.P.R.
Bell Jas., groom, cor Smith & Graham
Bell John B., of Bell Bros., 536 Main
Bell Lewis, 228 Main
BELL, LEWIS, YATES & WALSH, coal dealers, office, 13 Bannatyne East, yards Princess north of track
Bell P., C.E. and contractor, River av, Fort Rouge
Bell R., engineer, 184 Ross
Bell Richard, of Bell Bros., 222 Ross
Bell Robt., engineer C.P.R.
Bell Robert, laborer, bds 863 Main
Bell Robt., of Bell Bros., 222 Ross
Bell Sam., laborer, bds 21 Patrick
Bell W., head waiter Manitoba club, 100 Garry
Bell W., of Bell Bros., res 38 James E
Bell W. E., cattle dealer, 134 McWilliam West
Bell W. G., of Copeland & Bell, res 142 Donald
Bell W. R., mgr. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., 2 Bannatyne East
BELL WM., gents' furnishings, 288 Main cor Graham
Bellamy James, engineer C.P.R.

1884 – August 8 – Dept., of the Interior Annual Report for 1884, Part 1, P. 7.

H.H. Smith and J. McD. Gordon, Dominion Lands Office Inspectors, visit Bell Farm to deal with the squatters' issue, and signed the newly-delivered Bell Farm Visitors Register, # 8 & 9 respectively.

"I then went to Indian Head in company with J. McD. Gordon, for the purpose of assisting him in the disposition of the claims of certain squatters on the Bell Farm."

1884 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – J. Mc D. Gordon deals with Bell Farm and other squatters

"**LOCAL NEWS** – Mr. Gordon, Dominion Land Agent at Calgary left Regina on Sunday evening for Indian Head and passed here on Tuesday on his way to medicine Hat where he has gone to arrange the difficulties there regarding Squatters, &c."

1884 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 - Notice to Squatters – to meet at Bell Farm

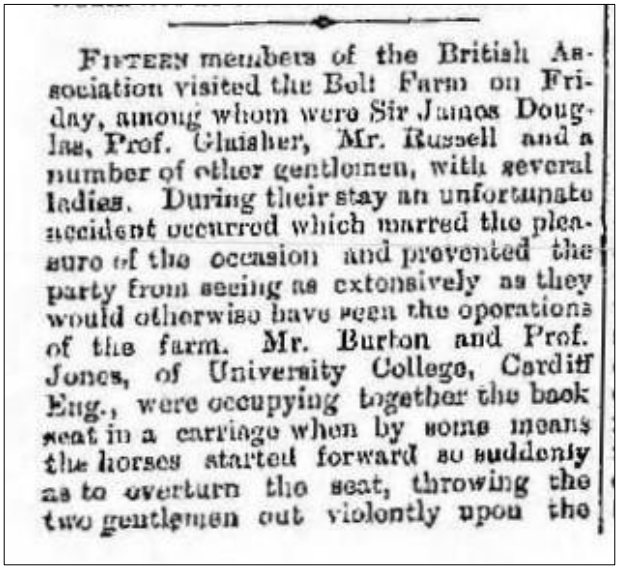
"**Important to Squatters.** Messrs. Taylor MP. for South Leeds and Wood M.P. for Brockville, the Arbitrators appointed to adjust the matters in dispute with the Squatters on the Bell Farm have arrived there. Mr. W.H. Stevenson, Dominion Land Agent for Regina, who has received instructions from the Dominion Government to hold himself in readiness to proceed,

immediately on receiving intimation by telegram, to the Bell Farm, to meet the Arbitrators and to take with him all fyles, maps and other papers necessary, to place himself at their disposal and facilitate in every way the work they go there to accomplish, proceeded there by Tuesday evening train."

1884 – Aug. 16 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2 – NWT Council debates establishment of Bell Farm and squatters' rights

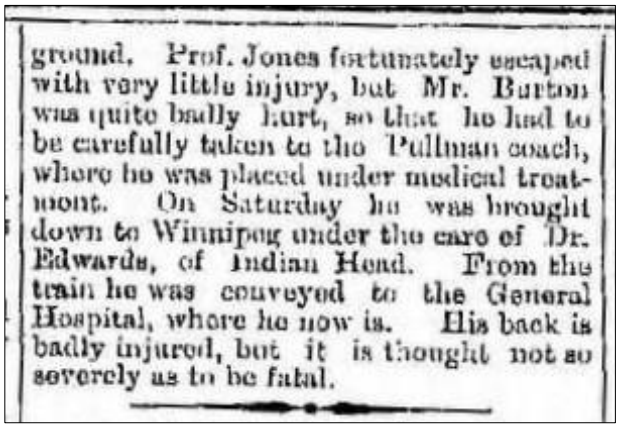
"Moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Jackson, in amendment to the motion of Mr. Ross in reference to the settlers in the Moose Jaw, Regina and Indian Head reserves, " That the lands in the three reserves mentioned were reserved for homestead entry in 1882; that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to settle the claims of the Regina reserve settlers, no attempt had been made to settle those of the Moose Jaw settlers, and no settlement had been arrived at with the Bell Farm settlers; that the delay in recognizing their claims entails hardship upon those settlers; that they, being pioneers, should be treated at least equally as well as later settlers elsewhere; that the settlers _____ to enter inter possession before the withdrawal of the land from homesteading; that the delay in settlement of the claims is injuring the towns of Moose Jaw and Regina; that a course by which actual settlers are given to understand that they have no rights which the government is bound to respect , is injurious to immigration and the welfare of the country; that a memorial should be sent through the executive council urging the minister of the interior to at once recognize the full claims of all bona fide settlers on the Regina and Moose Jaw reserves; that the executive memorialize the Dominion Government to so extend the sections of the land set showing non-resident homesteading so that a homesteader may reside anywhere in the township or adjoining township in cases where he has relatives therein." Amendment not voted upon."

1884 – Aug. 18 – *Manitoba. Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Fifteen British Association members visit the Bell Farm; Burton accident.



FIFTEEN members of the British Association visited the Bell Farm on Friday, among whom were Sir James Douglas, Prof. Gluisher, Mr. Russell and a number of other gentlemen, with several ladies. During their stay an unfortunate accident occurred which marred the pleasure of the occasion and prevented the party from seeing as extensively as they would otherwise have seen the operations of the farm. Mr. Burton and Prof. Jones, of University College, Cardiff Eng., were occupying together the back seat in a carriage when by some means the horses started forward so suddenly as to overturn the seat, throwing the two gentlemen out violently upon the

85 kb



ground. Prof. Jones fortunately escaped with very little injury, but Mr. Burton was quite badly hurt, so that he had to be carefully taken to the Pullman coach, where he was placed under medical treatment. On Saturday he was brought down to Winnipeg under the care of Dr. Edwards, of Indian Head. From the train he was conveyed to the General Hospital, where he now is. His back is badly injured, but it is thought not so severely as to be fatal.

67 kb

1884 – Aug. 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – British Association members stay at Winnipeg hotels

The following Old Country visitors are registered at the Grand Union:—Dr. Robert Beveridge, Aberdeen; R. F. Gwythor, Manchester; Dr. Kerr, Glasgow; Mrs. Morison Miller, M. F. M. Campbell, Scotland.

Among the guests at the Queen's are Prof. G. Cecil White, Southampton, England; Prof. Viriamu Jones, University College, Cardiff; E. Westlake, Fordingbridge; W. H. Madden, Marlborough; S. Pitt, London, all of England, and members of the British Association.

The following members of the British Scientific Association are registered at the Leland: Capt. Bedford Pim, Sir James Douglas, Lady Douglas, Miss Douglas, Prof. Glaisher, H. B. Pim, G. Reid, Rev. M. D. Fletcher, P. M. Sydney, Edwin Ransom, London, England; Mr. and Mrs. Russell, Plymouth; A. A. Prankrod, Oxford; John Carson, Belfast; J. R. White, Rossall; O. H. Veley, Oxford; Thos. Woodcock, Wellington Salop, England.

103 kb

1884 – Aug. 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – MacArthur's report on his Bell Farm visit

severely as to be fatal.

GOLDEN GRAIN.

What They are Doing at the Bell Farm at Qu'Appelle.

Return of Mr. McArthur from a Tour of Inspection—7,500 Acres of Waving Grain—Splendid Prospects for a Magnificent Crop.

Mr. Duncan McArthur, president of the Bell Farming Company, returned on Saturday from a tour of inspection of the Bell Farm. He left Winnipeg on Wednesday morning and arrived at his destination that night. Spending two days in looking over the farm, he had the opportunity of making a complete circuit of all the fields, when he found the various crops in the most forward and flourishing state that could be imagined. This was particularly the case in reference to the wheat, of which there were between 5,000 and 6,000 acres. The crop of oats covered 2,000 acres, and there were 500 acres of flax, making a total of over

7,500 ACRES.

All these crops, without exception, promised to yield very heavily; Mr. McArthur estimates that the wheat will average twenty-five or thirty bushels per acre. The wheat was finer than any he saw on the way between Winnipeg and Indian Head, excelling even those fields about Portage la Prairie, which were very good. It was expected that the harvest would begin this week, when all the new machinery purchased this year by the company, including a number of steam threshers, will

Part 1 of 3 134 kb

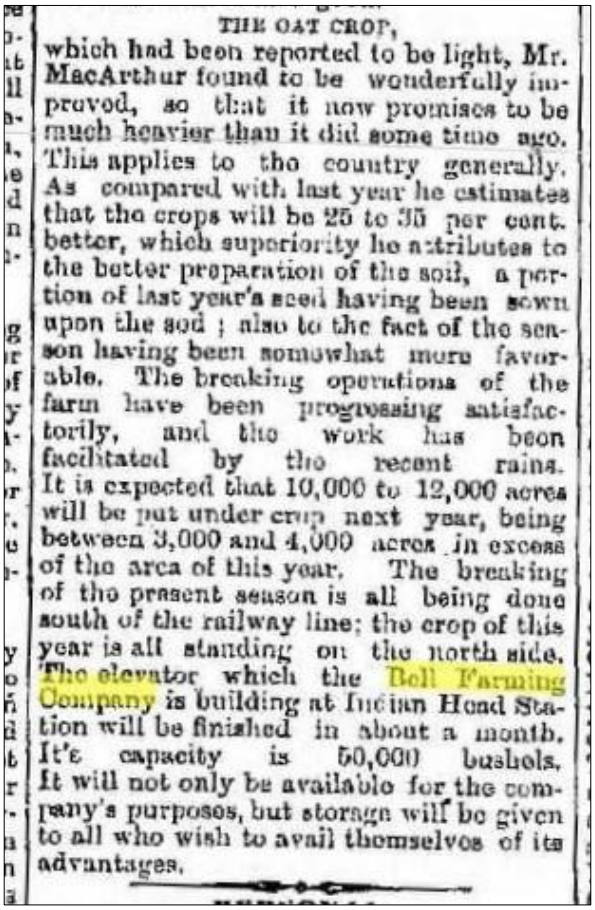
cluding a number of steam threshers, will be put in operation, presenting a very animated scene. Harvesting generally was likely to begin in about ten days throughout the country. Mr. McArthur says it is impossible for any one to form any idea of the magnitude of a crop of eight thousand acres except by actually going over the ground. Standing at the main building, which is a mile and a half distant from the railway track, and on the north side of it, and looking in all directions, one sees, as far as the eye can reach, nothing but a vast mass of

WAVING GRAIN.

The operations of the farm are directed by the manager, Major W. R. Bell, and are such as to give evidence of the high efficiency with which they are conducted. Mr. McArthur was entirely satisfied with the state of things which he saw, and as the result of his visit, he is led to entertain very great hopes of the future. He says that the success of the Bell farm has demonstrated the possibility of successfully cultivating wheat in enormous fields in that part of the country; and further, that this success has stimulated other farmers in their agricultural operations, and produced a good moral effect throughout the whole country. He understands that the crop of the Sykes farm, which is a few miles distant from the Bell farm is also good.

THE OAT CROP.

Part 2 of 3 124 kb



THE OAT CROP,

which had been reported to be light, Mr. MacArthur found to be wonderfully improved, so that it now promises to be much heavier than it did some time ago. This applies to the country generally. As compared with last year he estimates that the crops will be 25 to 35 per cent. better, which superiority he attributes to the better preparation of the soil, a portion of last year's seed having been sown upon the sod; also to the fact of the season having been somewhat more favorable. The breaking operations of the farm have been progressing satisfactorily, and the work has been facilitated by the recent rains. It is expected that 10,000 to 12,000 acres will be put under crop next year, being between 3,000 and 4,000 acres in excess of the area of this year. The breaking of the present season is all being done south of the railway line; the crop of this year is all standing on the north side. The elevator which the Bell Farming Company is building at Indian Head Station will be finished in about a month. It's capacity is 50,000 bushels. It will not only be available for the company's purposes, but storage will be given to all who wish to avail themselves of its advantages.

Part 3 of 3 118 kb

1884 – ca. August 20 – Prof. Tanner visits the Bell Farm and signs the Bell Farm Visitors Register (#69) – mentions in a later report for the Albany Settlement that it took Bell five weeks to travel from Brandon to Indian Head in 1882.

1884 – August 20 – Letter from former Prime Minister Sir Alexander Mackenzie to his daughter Mary, on visit to Bell Farm with his wife Jane

"When we reached the Bell Farm, we saw two fields of wheat, one of 1,280 acres, and one of1,000 acres, and a flax field of 500 acres. They have 25 reapers, 170 horses, and other farm "rolling stock" in proportion. Late in the evening we got to our car again, after a very pleasant ten days' ride, part of which the heat spoiled, and part was rendered almost intolerable by a cloud of winged ants, which enveloped us and found a lodging in our clothes and down our necks. They sting exactly like a newly-kindled match applied to the skin."

Source: "*The Honourable Alexander Mackenzie: His Life and Times* ", by William Buckingham and George W. Ross, 1892, p. 610.

1884 – Aug. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Mr. Burton, Br. Assoc. member, injured on Bell Farm tour accident

"**CITY AND PROVINCE**. Mr. Burton, a member of Captain Pim's party, who was seriously injured by being thrown from a carriage at the Bell Farm last week, was taken east yesterday in charge of Dr. Kerr, who will accompany him as far as Montreal, where he will take the steamer for his home in England. It is thought the unfortunate accident will not result in any permanent injury, though some time must elapse before Mr. Burton will be able to walk."

1884 – August - Visitor's Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
1	August 8, 1884	Adelbert Anson Bishop of Assiniboia	Regina	Saskatchewan –1st Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle (originally called Assiniboia)
2	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
3	"	John Grisdale Dean of Rupertsland	Winnipeg	Manitoba – later 3rd Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle
4	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
5	"	D. Lewis	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
6	"	Major Lloyd *Austruther ……*	England	
7	"	F. Lloyd *Austruther*	Portage la Prairie	Manitoba
8	August 8, 1884	H.H. Smith	Winnipeg	Manitoba – Henry Hall Smith (b. 1867) was a lawyer, the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, and a member of the Dominion Lands Board in Winnipeg. Also inspector for Dominion Lands, with J.M. Gordon on this visit
9		J. McD. Gordon	Calgary	Alberta – Dominion Lands Agent Ref: Dept. of Interior Sessional Papers, 1884 John MacDonald Gordon, Dominion land agent (promoted to Inspector of Dominion Lands Agencies 1885) With H.H. Smith on this visit.
10		Dr. *Shaver*	Stratford	England or Ontario?
11		W. Kirkland	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
12		E. Dewdney	Regina	Saskatchewan – Edgar Dewdney - Lieut. Gov. of the North-West Territories
13		J. Dewdney	Regina ?	Residence not listed – Jane Dewdney - wife of Edgar Dewdney
14		R. Sykes	Edgeley, Cheshire	Richard Sykes and his brother Arthur (next entry), both of Cheshire, England, established and owned Edgeley Farm, north of Maclean. It was their farm manager's wife who was instrumental in building Vernon Church. According to the June 11, 1886 Qu'Appelle Progress, R Sykes and his wife visited the farm at that time.
15		Arthur H. Sykes	Edgeley, Cheshire	Brother of Richard Sykes.
16		G. Pritchard-Rayner	Trescawen, Anglesey, N. Wales	George Pritchard-Rayner was a retired officer of the 5th Dragoon Guards and Master of the Anglesey Harriers.
17		H. Keith	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
18	August 12, 1884	H.M. Hargreaves	Oakhurst, *Westhroughton*	
19	August 12, 1884	H.E. Pearson	Southport	
20		Alfred Pegler, British Association	Southampton, England	Member of the British Association
21		Josiah Thorp, British Association	Holmfirth, England	

22		John Flood	Brockville, Ontario	Member of Parliament for Brockville: Ref. Ed Morgan History, p. 49
23	August 14, 1884	Augustes E. *Mornewicke*	Winnipeg	Manitoba
24		Alexander MacArthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba: A Winnipeg general merchant, Alex helped found the Manitoba Historical and Scientific Society.
25		May MacArthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba Wife of Alexander MacArthur. Died within a week of her toddler son, Ian's passing
26		Ian Alister MacArthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba Toddler son of Alexander and May MacArthur. Died January 13 1886 ,3 years and 6 months.
27		David Macarthur	Winnipeg	Manitoba Young son of Alexander and May MacArthur
28		Robert Crawford	Indian Head	Saskatchewan – probably merchant; member of NWT Council; died 1897 – Ref: p. 332, Indian Head History. An investor in the Bell Farm
29		*W.R.* Robertson	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
30		D. *Malcolmson*	Winnipeg	Manitoba
31		H. J. Eberts	Winnipeg	Manitoba – Hermann Eberts was a member of the Bell Farm investors & Sec. Treasurer, Ref: p. 62, Indian Head History; same as # 165
32		W.N. *Shillicoine*	England	
Page 2				
33	August 15, 1884	James Glaisher, F.R.S.	Blackheath	James Glaisher, a good friend of James Douglas, was a renowned meteorologist and aeronaut (balloonist) who visited the Bell Farm with the British Association.
34	"	Jason Douglas *…ut 68*	Dulwich, Surrey	A British civil engineer and renowned lighthouse designer, Jason (James Nicholas) Douglas visited the Bell Farm on Aug. 15, 1884 along with his family and a dozen other dignitaries.
35	"	Lady Douglas	*Sellay* House	Wife of James Douglas
36	"	*Neil* Douglas	*Sellay* House	
37	"	Geo. Russell	Plymouth, England	
38	"	Ellen Russell	Plymouth, England	
39	"	John Carson	Belfast, Ireland	
40	"	J. Viriamu Jones	Univ. Coll. Cardiff	Viriamu Jones, a British Association delegate, was a physicist and First Principal of the University College of South Wales at Cardiff. As a member of the Association, Jones visited the Bell Farm with his wife Sarah Katharine (Willis) Jones on August 15, 1884.
41	"	Mrs. Viriamu Jones	Univ. Coll. Cardiff	Wife of Viriamu Jones
42	"	Hector Cameron, M.P.	Toronto	Ontario – Conservative Member of Parliament
43	"	Mrs. Hector Cameron	Toronto	Ontario: Mrs. Clara [Boswell] Cameron was the wife of Hector Cameron, Member of Parliament.
44	"	A.A. *Prankerd*	Trinity College, Oxford, London	
45	"	W. Burton	*G……,* England	Injured in accident on the Bell Farm
46	"	Bedford Pim, Captain, R.N.	United Service Club	Bedford Clapperton Trevelyn Pim - Captain Bedford Pim was a naval officer (raised to the rank of rear-admiral on the retired list in 1885) and a barrister. Pim was responsible for proposing the 1884 visit of the British Association to Canada.
47	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
48		*R.* Myers	India, *…etta*	Saskatchewan

49		B.H. Buxton	Sedgwick City, Kansas	Same as # 211
50	August 19, 1884	Joseph Grose Colmer	Canadian Gov't Officer, London, England	In 1884, Joseph Grose Colmer was the Secretary to the Canadian High Commissioner (Charles Tupper) in London.
51		T.J. Demers	Montana	U.S.A.: Telesphore Jacque "T.J" Demers was a prominent merchant and cattleman (Detroit and Montana Cattle Company) who founded Demersville, Montana.
52	August 20, 1884	W. McGirr	Regina	Saskatchewan William McGirr was born in Russell County, Ontario and came to Regina in the Fall of 1881, where he began work as a Clerk in the Indian Department of the North-West Territorial government. (See John Powers' 1887 History of Regina for more details on McGirr)
53		Geo. P. Welsh	Regina	Saskatchewan
54		*Major Patrick George Craigie*	*Liet. Cent. Ch of Up., Arundel, Sr. Strand, London, W.*	Major P.G. Craigie was the Secretary of the Central Chamber of Agriculture and later the President of the Royal Statistical Society.
55		Robert Miller Christy	Chignal St. James, near Chelmsford, Essex	Robert Miller Christy was an Essex naturalist and author who made several trips to Manitoba and wrote about the Bell Farm in one of his accounts of prairie life. (First visited on July 10, 1884 en route from Winnipeg to Medicine Hat; then again during the return trip - on Aug. 20, 1884)
56	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
57		Matt. Ryan	Winnipeg	Manitoba
58		Andrew MacLean	Manitoba College	Manitoba
59		A. MacTavish	Indian Head	Saskatchewan
60 a & b		Mr. & Mrs. A. Mackenzie	Toronto	Ontario: Jane (nee Sym) Mackenzie visited the Bell Farm with her husband Alexander Mackenzie, Canadian Prime Minister from 1873-1878. Alexander Mackenzie (1822-1892) was a Scottish stonemason, who went on to become a newspaper editor (1852-1854 *Lambton Shield)*. He entered politics in 1861 and served as Prime Minister of Canada from 1873 to 1878. Mackenzie visited the Bell Farm with his second wife, Jane, during a trip to see the Rocky Mountains in August 1884.
61		Edith Brown	Toronto	Ontario
62		John Henry Fairbank	Petrolia, Ontario	J.H. Fairbank was a banker and in his time was the top producer of crude oil in Canada. Fairbank preceded Alexander Mackenzie as the MP for the federal riding of Lambton. John Henry Fairbank (1831-1914) was an Ontario banker and in his time was the top producer of crude oil in Canada. Fairbank succeeded former Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie as the MP for the federal riding of Lambton.
63 a & b		Wm. & Mrs. Henderson	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – possibly the architect by that name. William Henderson (1837 - 1931) was a Scottish architect with the federal Department of Public Works (DPW). He married Mary Jane Smith in 1862, and the family moved to Canada in 1872, where Henderson began work with DPW.
64		Cha. Mackenzie	Sarnia, Ontario	
Page 3				
65		Mrs. M.R. Mackenzie	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan

66		Angus McKay	Indian Head	Saskatchewan – founding director of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head. Ref; p. 535 Indian Head History
67		James Harvey	Indian Head	Saskatchewan – operated first grain mill at Indian Head; Ref: p. 434, Indian Head History
68	x	Leonard Dodsworth	St. Leonard's Club, York	
69		Henry Tanner, *M.R.A.C.*	London	From South Kensington; slated to teach farming at the proposed college at Indian Head; Ref. Ed Morgan History, p. 51; same as # 187 & 247. He was also involved with Lord Brassey's Church Colonization Society east of Qu'Appelle, and Brassey's Alliance and Sunbeam farms near Indian Head MRAC stands for Member of the Royal Agricultural College. Professor Tanner was the first diploma student at Cirencester Royal Agricultural College - his name appears on a plaque in the college's dining hall.
70		..... Steven	Winnipeg	Manitoba
71		Robert Manning	Winnipeg	Manitoba: Robert Manning (1856-1920) was a Winnipeg merchant. He was the founder of the Manning and Company Bank as well as the Western Coal Company. He visited the Bell Farm on August 20, 1884
72		Alex Haggart	Winnipeg	Manitoba: Alexander Haggart was a Lawyer, judge, MP (1908-1911), MP (1911-1917). Born at Peterborough, Ontario on 29 January 1848, son of Archibald and Elizabeth Haggart, he was educated at Victoria University (Cobourg, Ontario). He commenced the practice of law at Toronto, in 1877. He came to Winnipeg in 1880 and became the law partner of Hugh John Macdonald and A. C. Killam.
73		.....	Winnipeg	Manitoba – similar to # 91
74		Thomas *H.* Taylor	Chatham, Ontario	
75		???... Stephenson	Winnipeg	Manitoba
76		Goldwin Smith	Toronto	Ontario: Prolific British-Canadian political commentator and writer. Editor of the Canadian Monthly, Goldwin Smith Hall' at Cornell University is named for him. Professor Smith left Winnipeg for the Bell Farm on the morning of Aug. 27, 1884 – Ref: Wpg. Daily Sun, p. 1.
77		W. Jackson	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
78		*...???.....lay*	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
79	August 29, 1884	Rufus Stephenson	Chatham, Ontario	
80	August 30, 1884	Hector L. Langevin	Ottawa	Ontario – federal Minister of Public Works 1879-91. Ref: Canadian Encyclopedia
81		Camile ... (Emmanuel St. Onge?) Chapleau	Regina	Saskatchewan
82		H.L. Langevin		Son of Hector L. Langevin: https://advitam.banq.qc.ca/notice/299268: 1861-1897
83		William Henderson	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – same signature as # 63 William Henderson (1837 - 1931) was a Scottish architect with the federal Department of Public Works (DPW). He married Mary Jane Smith in 1862, and the family moved to Canada in 1872, where Henderson began work with DPW.
84		M. Zendord	Regina	Saskatchewan – contractor and billiard Hall operator Ref: History of Regina, 1887, p.14 & 28
85		E.F.E. Roy	Ottawa	Elzebert Francois Edouard Roy was the private secretary of Sir Hector Langevin.

On reaching Toronto, I proceeded to the North-west by the Lake route, and my first visit of inspection was paid to

THE BELL FARM.

However impressive a visit to this farm may be to a stranger, I am free to confess that its magnitude impresses the mind still more fully during subsequent inspections. It is very difficult to realize clearly on the mind what it is to drive for twenty miles through crops of wheat, oats, and flax, extending as far as the eye can reach. One piece of wheat we carefully examined measured 1500 acres. It had been sown in two days, and at the time of my visit much of it carried thirty-five bushels per acre of magnificent wheat, which under the bright Canadian sun waved like a golden sea. The working power on the farm consisted of 180 horses and 130 men, these, with 50 self-binding reapers, represented a power to cut, bind, and stook 800 acres per day, each binder cutting 16 acres daily. This power is so arranged that within twelve days the whole of the wheat and oats can be cut, and the spring sowing of the wheat and oats was also arranged so that it could be completed in ten days. It appears almost fabulous to talk of 800 or 1,000 acres of wheat being sown on a single day, and yet this only represents what was done on this farm in the spring of 1884. Every farmer will see the great advantages which must result from the spring sowing being promptly completed. There is one level start, the growth is even throughout, and the ripening is likely to follow with equal regularity.

We drove out to see the hay-making arrangements, which were being carried on whilst they were waiting for the corn to be ready for harvesting, and here we found from 1200 to 1400 tons of hay being secured. Here, again, the work was simplicity itself, for the natural grass of certain parts of the unbroken prairie having been cut by mowing machines, was allowed to lie on the surface—on the average four or five hours—and then the horse rakes gathered it for the men to load on the waggons and send to the stack. In making the hay-ricks, care was taken to shape the top into a roof-like form, which would throw off the rain without the expense of thatching. A small loss is occasionally made consequent upon defective protection, but that loss is unworthy of consideration in comparison with the large expenditure for thatching, which is avoided.

In the regulation of this great undertaking, there is a rigid discipline observed. An order being given, it must be performed, for its neglect entails dismissal. Without this—almost military—

regularity, confusion would soon reign, and good management would be an impossibility. Major Bell, from day to day, inspects the operations going on upon the farm, and is now aided by one general foreman and four foremen of sections. At eight o'clock in the evening all gather to the telephone, which extends from Major Bell's residence into each of the four sections of the farm. The orders are then given to each sectional foreman, in the hearing of the others. Any doubt is at once cleared up, and all retire to rest subsequently with full instructions for the morrow. No change is permitted without authority from headquarters, which, by the aid of the telephone, is always obtainable, in case of necessity, by night or day.

The colonisation scheme now being carried out by Major Bell possesses one marked peculiarity, for the area of the farm represents 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles, the whole of which lies within its own continuous boundary. There is no intervening land, except one square mile given up for the town of Indian Head, and for the line of railway which passes through the centre of the farm. In May, 1882, Major Bell had free scope for the selection of this unbroken block of land. It was then 200 miles from the nearest railway station. It is a curious fact, illustrative of the rapid development of the Canadian North-West, that his men and teams, with their various requirements for establishing themselves on the selected lands, took five weeks in journeying from Brandon to their destination; and yet within one month of their arrival there, Major Bell went back to Winnipeg in a sleeping car on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY LANDS.

After completing my inspection of the Bell Farm, I proceeded to see the lands which are associated with the lovely valley of the Qu'appelle River. The name has no doubt been given to it in consequence of its frequent "echoes," and the reply, qu'appelle (who calls?), suggests the natural result of many an amusing incident. On the first day I drove through the fertile lands east and north of the Bell Farm, reaching Fort Qu'appelle in the evening. We first passed through the Pheasant Plains, which are remarkable for their productive powers and great agricultural capabilities. I visited here some skilful and enterprising farmers who had come up there from Ontario, and who had secured a well-deserved success. Messrs. McRae and Williamson had selected a fine tract of land, well adapted for mixed farming, and here [on August 28th, 1884] the harvest was in full swing, and the average yield of wheat was not less than 35 bushels per acre, whilst on 300 acres there were fully

40 bushels per acre. This larger produce was in some measure due to the system of tillage. Major Bell considers it most economical to break the prairie thin—say three inches—and leave the turf thus ploughed up exposed to the winter frost, so that it can be shaken to pieces in the spring by the agitating harrows going before the seeder. On the other hand the more usual practice is to "break" the land as already stated, and after two or three months, when the turf appears to be dead and ready to crumble, the turf and two or three inches of soil are "back-set" by the plough and allowed to lie for the winter. Major Bell appears to admit the fact of this better cultivation being often preferable, but claims that it does not suit his arrangements at the Bell Farm, In any case the more complete tillage in the present instance contributed to an earlier harvest and a larger produce per acre.

Below: p. 35

Dealing as we are in these matters of finance with most important interests, and it may be for the welfare and happiness of many, I have thought it desirable to check these statements by information obtained from another source. Through the kindness of Major

W. R. Bell, of The Bell Farm, whose knowledge of the Canadian North west ranks very high, I have been supplied with his statement of the expenditure which may be advantageously made by a gentleman in occupying 200 acres of good land, assuming that 50 acres are brought under crop in the first year, 140 acres in the second, and 190 acres in the third year. His farm expenditure is —as in the previous instances A, B, and C—kept independent of household expenditure, and any purchase of land.

FARM D.

EXPENDITURE IN FIRST YEAR.	£	s.	d.
3 Horses and Harness	120	0	0
Hand Plough	5	0	0
Harrow	7	0	0
Waggon	16	0	0
Seeder	10	0	0
Self-binding Reaper	50	0	0
Buckboard	10	0	0
Sleigh	7	0	0
Cow	14	0	0
Labour—1 Man 1 Year	60	0	0
„ Extra Man Harvest, 2 months	12	0	0
60 Bushels Seed, Wheat (40 acres)	15	0	0
25 „ „ Oats (9 acres)	2	0	0
Potatoes for Planting, 1 acre	2	8	0
Threshing 1500 Bushels	15	0	0
Oats and Hay for Horses	20	0	0
	365	8	0
Cottage and Farm Buildings	300	0	0
£	665	8	0

EXPENDITURE IN SECOND YEAR.	£	s.	d.
Labour—1 Man and 1 Boy	84	0	0
„ Extra Man, 6 months	36	0	0
200 bushels Seed Wheat, at 80 cents. per bushel	32	0	0
Seed Oats and Feed Oats	36	0	0
Hay	15	0	0
Threshing 4,000 bushels, at 5 cents. per bushel	40	0	0
Twine for Binder	7	0	0
Contingencies	20	0	0
£	270	0	0

Expenditure in Third Year.	£	s.	d.
Outlay as in Second Year	270	0	0
Extra Cost of Threshing	12	8	0
£	282	8	0

We may now bring these statements of expenditure into contact with the receipts for the same period.

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	Receipts.	£	s.	d.
First Year :—							
As per statement ...	665	8	0	*First Year* :—			
				1000 bushels wheat, at 80 cnts. per bush.	160	0	0
				450 bushels oats at 40 cents per bushel ...	36	0	0
Second Year :—				*Second Year* :—			
As per statement ...	270	0	0	3500 bushels wheat, at 80 cents per bushel	560	0	0
				500 bushels oats, at 40 cents per bushel ...	40	0	0
Third Year :—				*Third Year* :—			
As per statement ...	282	8	0	4750 bushels wheat, at 80 cents per bushel	760	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure ...	378	4	0	500 bushels oats, at 40 cents per bushel ...	40	0	0
£	1596	0	0	£	1596	0	0

Major Bell calculates that after the third year, although the capital invested upon the farm has been re-paid, the annual receipts and expenditure may be calculated upon as in the third year, showing a clear annual profit of over £500. Results such as these are far too important to be passed without applying to them even a further test, and I have therefore taken the data given in connection with Farms A, B, and C, so as to place them in contrast with each other as well as with the Farm D.

FARM A.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
First and Second Year	634	12	0	Second Year	520	0	0
Third Year	260	0	0	Third Year	520	0	0
Receipts in excess ...	145	8	0				
£	1040	0	0	£	1040	0	

FARM B.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
First and Second Year	1220	0	0	Second Year	1040	0	0
Third Year	520	0	0	Third Year	1040	0	0
Receipts in excess ...	340	0	0				
£	2080	0	0	£	2080	0	0

FARM C.

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
First and Second Year	2772	4	0	Second Year	2080	0	0
Third Year	1040	0	0	Third Year	2080	0	0
Receipts in excess ...	347	16	0				
£	4160	0	0	£	4160	0	0

Thus in each and all of these cases, in which there was sufficient capital at command, we have a very satisfactory uniformity in the general results, which goes far to explain the immense success which is commonly observed in Canadian farming when a proper amount of capital is employed. These results closely confirm the statements made in my previous Report, in which, after referring to some excellent farms around Brandon, I said :—" In all these cases the profits on two years' cropping would repay the purchase of the property and also the outlay for the improvements."

1884 – British Association Tour Visitors (revised: 21 January 2021)

27 Aug, 1884 – List of Tour Members: in Montreal before Western Tour - *Winnipeg Daily Sun*

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

GRAND GATHERING IN MONTREAL TO-DAY.

Address of the President—The Programme of the Meeting.

[Special to the Winnipeg Daily Sun.]

MONTREAL, Aug. 27.—The annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science opened to-day.

There are some seven hundred delegates, including many leading scientists. The officers are: President—The Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, M.A., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., Professor of Experimental Physics in the University of Cambridge. Vice-President—His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, G.C.M.G.; the Right Hon. Sir John Alexander Macdoald, K.C.B., D.C.L.; the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., Ph.D., LL.D., M.P., F.R.S.L. and E., F.C.S.; the Hon. Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, G.C.M.G.; the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, K.C.M.G.; Sir A. A. Dorion, C.M.G.; the Hon. Dr. Chauveau; Principal J. W. Dawson, C.M.G., M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.; Professor Edward Frankland, M.D., D.C.L., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.C.S.; W. H. Hingston, Esq., M.D.; Thomas Sterry Hunt, Esq., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S. General Treasurer—Professor A. W. Williamson, Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S., V.P.C.S., University College, London, W.C. (Professor Williamson will be represented at Montreal by Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, C.B., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S. General Secretaries — Captain Douglas Galton, C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S.; A. G. Vernon Harcourt, Esq., M.A., F.R.S. F.C.S. Secretary—Professor T. G. Bonney, D. Sc., F.R.S., F.S.A., Pres. G. S. Local secretaries for the meeting at Montreal—S. E. Dawson, Esq., S. Rivard, Esq., S. C. Stevenson, Esq., Thomas White, Esq., M.P. Local treasurer for the meeting at Montreal — F. Wolferstan Thomas, Esq. The proceedings opened at 8 a. m. to-day, when in the absence of Professor Cayley, Sir William Thomson, the celebrated electrician, opened the meeting. Among the most important of his contributions to the advancement of electrical science are the construction of several beautiful instruments and their application to the study of atmospheric electricity. It is in connection with submarine telegraphy, however, that Sir William Thomson's labors in electrical science are best known. He is the inventor of the mirror-galvanometer and the siphon-recorder, which, owing to their extreme delicacy, can be worked by very low battery power—a circumstance that tends greatly to the preservation of the cables. To the science of magnetism Sir William Thomson has made valuable additions, and has also shown his wonderful power in the investigations into the nature of heat. On the successful completion of the Atlantic cable in 1866 he received the honor of knighthood, and was presented with the freedom of the city of Glosgow. He is a very fine appearing man. The president-elect, Lord Raleigh, afterwards took the chair. He is perhaps better known to many as the Hon. Mr. Strutt, and is a very eminent man in the higher mathematics and physics. His reputation has, perhaps, not been a popular one, but among students is of the very highest in these branches of science. He is professor of experimental physics in the University of Cambridge. His address was delivered in a scholarly way, and was not noticeable for any particularly eloquent passages. His allusion to the pleasure felt at meeting in Montreal, the great commercial metropolis of Canada, was heartily applauded. Not much formal business will be done to-day, the proceedings being rather of a preliminary character. The civic programme for the entertainment of the guests is on a very large scale.

1884 – Sept. 10 - British Association - Winnipeg to Brandon

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

The Excursionists Arrive Early this Morning.

Some Interesting Notes Respecting The Progress of the Association —The List of Excursionists.

The excursion party of the members of the British Association, which left Toronto for the Rockies on the 5th, arrived here about three o'clock this morning, and pushed on to Brandon without stoppage. The party will breakfast at Brandon. Only a comparatively small portion of the members of the Association are included in the party, but it is understood that the C. P. R. Company have granted free transportation as far as the Rockies till the end of the month to all those who may choose to avail themselves of the privilege by the regular trains. The excursion train consisted of eight sleeping cars. Among those who arrived this morning are :—

The Earl of Rosse, Sir Richard Temple, Sir Erastus Ommanney, Mr. Mark Whitwell, Mr. C. Le Neve Foster, Major-Gen. Lawrie, Prof. R. S. Ball, Rev. Gavin Lang, Dr. William Wood, Mr. S. Bourne, Mr. T. R. Polwhall, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Prof. A. W. Scott, Mr. W. Morris Beaufort, Dr. Henry Boone, Mr. W. Barnard, Mr. John Robbins, Rev. A. Joyce, Mr. Henry Marsh, Mr. Thomas Kingston, Mr. O. F. Jones, Mr. Thomas Hart, Mr. G. W. Bloxham, Rev. Harry Jones, Mr. H. J. Morton, Mr. G. P. Hughes, Prof. W. Frean, Mr. J. P. Sheldon, Mr. John Leach, Mr. E. Farnworth, Mr. A. Tate, Dr. W. Boyd Dawkins, Rev. H. A. Pickard, Mr. Geo. Chatterton, Mr. C. C. Leach, Mr. Jas. Dillon, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Mr. W. H. Leach, Mr. W. Unwin, Mr. W. Barnard, Mr. S. Bourne, Mr. Hugo H. Meulier, Mr. F. Hovenden, Dr. Peter Royle, Mr. Isaac, Ashe, Hon. C. W. Freemantle, Prof. Chandler Roberts, Mr. C. A. Buckmaster, Mr. H.B. Dixon, Dr. G. E. Dobson, Mr. W. L. Sclater, Mr. A. W. Bennett, Dr. W. R. McNab, Mr. R. M. Barrington, Mr. Hy. J. Mennell, Rev. W. H. Winwood, Mr. H. Bauerman, Prof. W. J. Sollas, Mr. A. B. Wynne, Mr. W. Whitaker, Mr. W. Topley, Mr. A. S. Reid, Mr. Matthew Blair, Mr. G. H. Kinahan, Mr. R. G. Symes, Mr. G. B. Longstaffe, Dr. P. L. Sclater, Dr. Ed. Frankland, Dr. W. B. Cheadle, Mr. Egbert de Hamel, Mr. W. Hurst, Mr. G. S. Turner, Mr. Hy. Borns, Dr. Selwyn, Mr. H. Brugge, Prof. Macoun, Dr. G. M. Dawson, Mr. A. Desjardins, Mr. J. D. Crawford, the Bishop of Ontario, Mr. Alfred Kinnear, M. T. H. Stockwell, Mr. H. A. Calder, Mr. J. F. Taylor, Mr. J. A. W. Oliver, Mr. F. H. Thomas, Mr. E. B. Elliott, Mr. B. Williamson, Mr. W. A. Traill, Dr. Gilbert, Dr. W. H. Perkin, jr., Mr. W. H. Perkin, Mr. S. Macadam, Mr. William Thompson (Manchester), Mr. Swire Smith, Mr. D. A. Louis, Mr. H. S. Hele Shaw.

Also this list from R.L. Richardson in his book:

THE TRIP TO THE ROCKIES.

The writer of this pamphlet, through the courtesy of Superintendent Egan, was fortunate enough to secure passage with the party, and for convenience of diction the narrative is continued in the first person plural. It was about five o'clock A.M. when we steamed out of the C.P.R. station and commenced our journey westward over the great fertile plains of Manitoba and the Northwest territories.

It may be as well at this stage to give a list of the gentlemen who comprised the party. It is as follows: Earl of Rosse, Sir Richard Temple, Major-General Laurie, Dr. Ashe, The Bishop of Ontario, Prof. J. P. Sheldon, Prof. Fream, Prof. B. Dawkins, Dr. Royle, Dr. W. P. Cheadle, Prof. H. Shaw, E. B. Elliott, Miss Winch, C. Calder, W. M. Beauford, A. S. Reid, G. Johnson, V. Kinahan, J. Symes, Professor J. Macoun, M. Rivard, G. Slater, R. C. Pilling, T. Hare, S. Bourne, A. Robertson, R. S. Broker, R. M. Barrington, A. Kinnear, H. M. Muller, E. Frankland, C. C. Prance, W. H. Pallows, M. Blair, A. W. Scott, H. Marsh, S. S. Turner, Prof. Macadam, G. Chatterton, G. P. Hughes, Miss Stalker, H. T. Menwell, A. W. Bennett, J. A. W. Oliver, W. A. Blackhouse, C. C. Leach, R. C. Brown, J. Cameron, C. Swanford, M. C. Clark, W. J. Sollas, Rev. H. H. Winwood, J. Robbins, Rev. H. A. Pickard, E. F. King, D. A. Louis, W. H. Leach, J. H. Handle, Rev. H. Swanzy, F. H. Stockwell, Dr McNab, Edgbert de Hamel, J. Bourdas, R. A. Robinson, H. Bowerman, H. Dubois, W. Hurst, A. D. Ottwell, S. E. Dobson, S. W. Blowman, J. Frewson, C. Lawrie, T. H. Thomas, W. H. Merritt, J. F. Taylor, C. H. Kelmand, S. McIntyre, A. Desjardines, G. B. Longstaff, W. H. Leach, W. Unwin, W. S. Fellow, E. Withers, S. F. Harmer, Mrs. M'Ilrie, F. W. Harmer, C. A. Hirshfelder, Dr. A. C. Maybury, O. Jones, M. Brown, E. Farnsworth, T. W. Newman, A. Traile, W. Brownhard, W. Topley, J. D.

Crawford, J. W. Leahy, B. Williamson, W. Whitaker, Rev. Canon Ellegood, E. W. Jollas, R. Hazzard, W. Anderson, Mrs. Anderson, George and Jasper Anderson, Grace and William Anderson, F. Fargeau, F. Cummings, M. Argue, C. M. Pitman, A. Tate, Rev. H. Jones. Mr. Alexander Begg, General Immigration Agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway at London, England, was also with the party, his object being to traverse the country and familarize himself with its resources and most advantageous points, in order to possess himself of that information, which it is so essential for a gentleman occupying so important a position, to secure. Mr. Begg's office is No. 88 Cannon Street, London, where he can be seen or reached by communication. He is always ready to give any information in his possession regarding the country, as he is always possessed of the latest information in reference thereto. It might be mentioned that besides the scientists, Dr. Thorburn and Miss Thorburn, of Toronto, also participated in the trip.

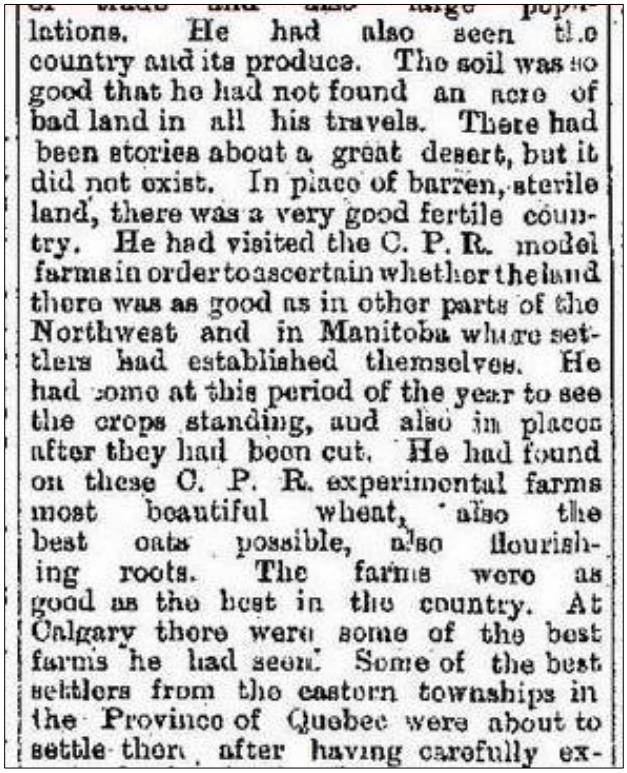
The train left Winnipeg at five o'clock in the morning and breakfast was secured at Carberry, a town one hundred miles west.

AT BRANDON.

1884 – Sept. 4 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 16 – Parrish sells oats to Bell Farm

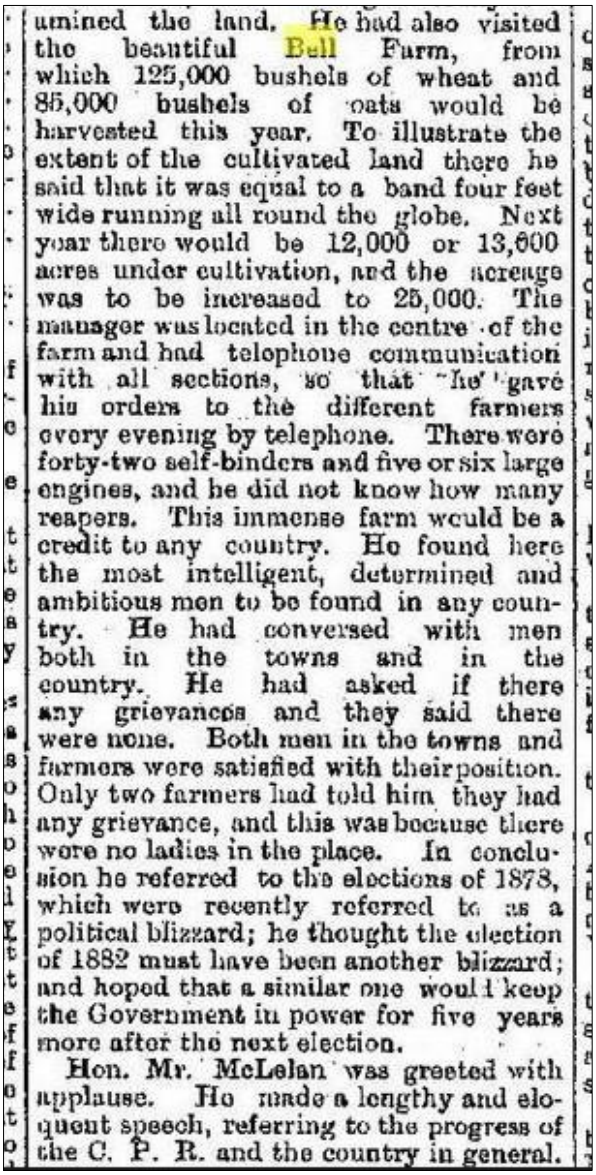
> **"**We hear that our enterprising citizen S. Parrish & Son have sold 1000 bushels of oats to the C.P.R. Co. and 2 car loads to the Bell farming Co. Mr. Parrish informed a SUN reporter, during a conversation on the state of crops, etc., that he took in on Wednesday several loads of New Wheat, for which he paid 80 cents per bushel, but he expected that the price this season would rule from 70 to75 cents, what had been brought in was in very good condition, and they were open to buy several thousand bushel of good wheat, between now and the end of the week, also that if the weather continued fine, the crop of oats would be much larger, than was expected and he surmised that prices would rule from 20 to 25 cents per bushel."

1884 – Sept. 11 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Langevin's comments on his western and Bell Farm tour



lations. He had also seen the country and its produce. The soil was so good that he had not found an acre of bad land in all his travels. There had been stories about a great desert, but it did not exist. In place of barren, sterile land, there was a very good fertile country. He had visited the C. P. R. model farms in order to ascertain whether the land there was as good as in other parts of the Northwest and in Manitoba where settlers had established themselves. He had come at this period of the year to see the crops standing, and also in places after they had been cut. He had found on these C. P. R. experimental farms most beautiful wheat, also the best oats possible, also flourishing roots. The farms were as good as the best in the country. At Calgary there were some of the best farms he had seen. Some of the best settlers from the eastern townships in the Province of Quebec were about to settle there after having carefully ex-

Part 1 116 kb



amined the land. He had also visited the beautiful Bell Farm, from which 125,000 bushels of wheat and 85,000 bushels of oats would be harvested this year. To illustrate the extent of the cultivated land there he said that it was equal to a band four feet wide running all round the globe. Next year there would be 12,000 or 13,000 acres under cultivation, and the acreage was to be increased to 25,000. The manager was located in the centre of the farm and had telephone communication with all sections, so that he gave his orders to the different farmers every evening by telephone. There were forty-two self-binders and five or six large engines, and he did not know how many reapers. This immense farm would be a credit to any country. He found here the most intelligent, determined and ambitious men to be found in any country. He had conversed with men both in the towns and in the country. He had asked if there any grievances and they said there were none. Both men in the towns and farmers were satisfied with their position. Only two farmers had told him they had any grievance, and this was because there were no ladies in the place. In conclusion he referred to the elections of 1878, which were recently referred to as a political blizzard; he thought the election of 1882 must have been another blizzard; and hoped that a similar one would keep the Government in power for five years more after the next election.

Hon. Mr. McLelan was greeted with applause. He made a lengthy and eloquent speech, referring to the progress of the C. P. R. and the country in general.

Part 2 155 kb

1884 – Sept. 15 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*., p. 1 – The British Association concludes tour from Winnipeg to Rockies

THE TOURISTS' RETURN

The British Association Excursion Returning.

Service at Regina Yesterday Morning—The Bell Farm Visited—A Tribute to Supt. Egan and the C. P. R.

BRANDON, Sept. 14.—The members of the British Association left Laggan on Saturday at 4 o'clock in the morning, arriving at Calgary at 9, where two hours were spent in breakfasting and viewing the vicinity. The Indian pow-wow did not come off. Chief Crowfoot and a number of his braves had assembled at Gleichen, where some time was spent by the party trafficking for Indian trinkets. Crowfoot and his party were photographed, and sketched by several of the members, including the Graphic artist. A short delay was made at Langevin to view the gas well, which excited great interest. The party arrived at Medicine Hat for supper, and at Moose Jaw had breakfast at 7 this morning. The train stopped opposite the police barracks at Regina where Col. Irvine met the party and conducted them to the barracks. The Episcopal service was held in the dining room, Bishop Lewis officiating and Sir Richard Temple reading the epistle. The morning was beautiful and the party were charmed with the view of such an extensive fertile plain. The Bell farm was reached at 1 o'clock. Major Bell met the party with teams and conducted them to his house, where lunch was partaken of. The party made a tour of the farm, expressing astonishment at the extent of the farm operations. At the station cheers were given for Major and Mrs. Bell. Sir Richard Temple expressed thanks for the courtesies the members had received and the opportunity given for seeing such extensive farming operations. Broadview was reached for supper. The tourists intend breakfasting at Portage la Prairie in the morning, spending a short time there and reaching Winnipeg between 9 and 10.

A meeting of the association was held on the train, and it was determined to present General Superintendent Egan with an address for the attention and kindness received from him. On their return to England a beautiful gold watch, properly inscribed, will be forwarded to him. This is a well-merited recognition.

A formal letter of thanks will be presented by the party to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to-morrow. Sir Richard Temple and others of the party will express their opinion of the country at the Historical reception to-morrow. Several members leave for the East to-morrow evening.

Part 1 of 3: 183 kb

Part 2 of 3: 209 kb

East to-morrow evening.

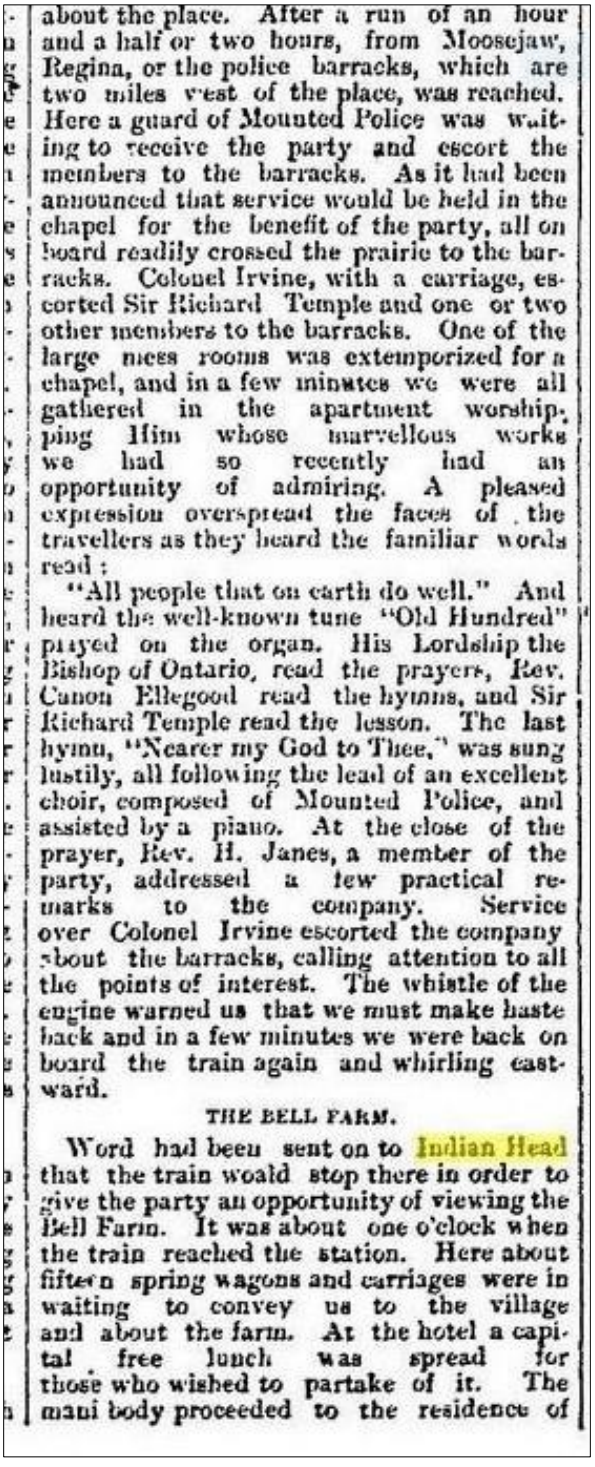
AT BROADVIEW.

BROADVIEW, Sept. 14.—The Pullman special, with the members of the British Association, accompanied by Supt. Egan, arrived here on their way east at five this evening. The ladies and gentlemen composing the party are in excellent health and spirits. The members of the party interviewed speak in the strongest words of praise of the great courtesy extended to them by the officials of the C. P. R. from Montreal to the Rockies. Their three hours stop at Indian Head and visit to the Bell Farm was much enjoyed. The magnitude of that enterprise surprised them. They were also highly elated with the hospitalities extended by Major Bell. After partaking of a sumptuous dinner at the C. P. R. dining hall the party proceeded east at 6 o'clock, expecting to reach Winnipeg early to-morrow morning.

Part 3 of 3: 146 kb

1884 – Sept. 15 - *Winnipeg Daily Sun* p. 1 & 8 – British Association report and list of travellers – long report

(Frank: This is a long report on the British Association tour, starting at Winnipeg, then west to Laggan in the Rockies, and then working its way east back to Winnipeg. Lots of good background information and details about stops along the way, with a particularly long discussion about the Bell Farm. The list of travellers and their respective roles helps places names in their proper perspective. The extract below starts with Sunday worship services in Regina, followed by the reception and tour of the Bell Farm)

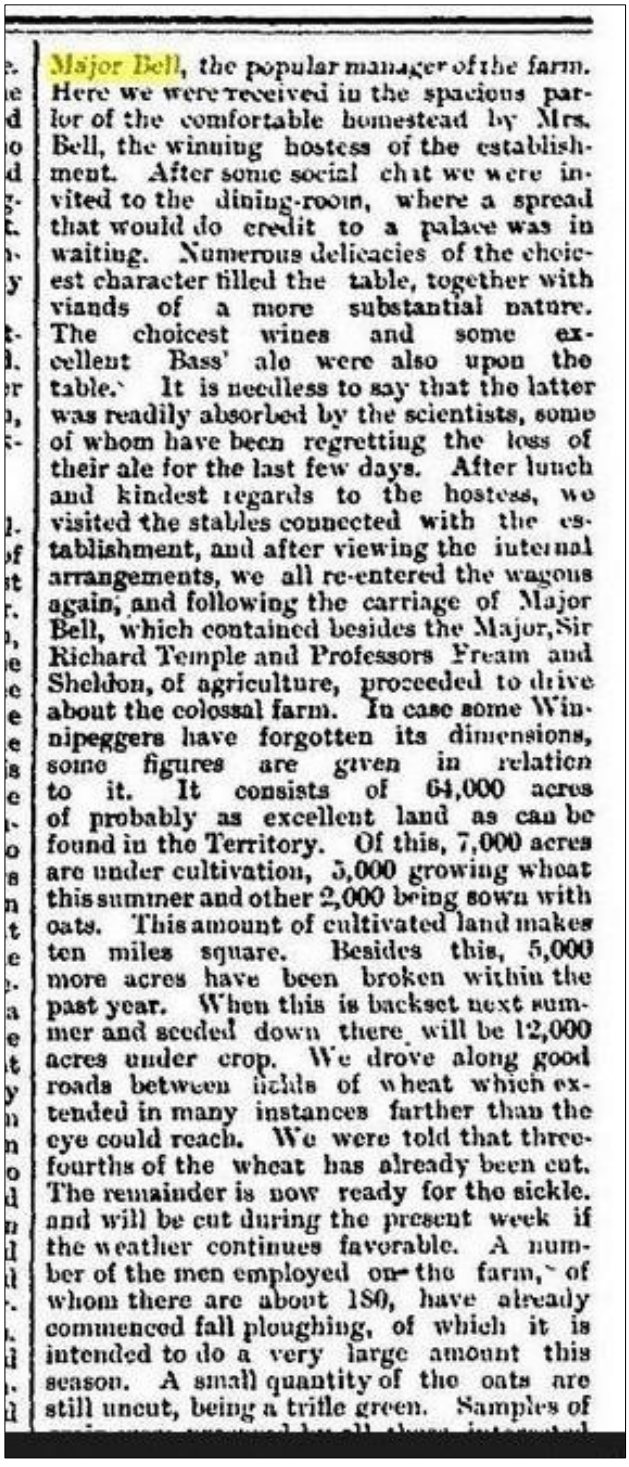


about the place. After a run of an hour and a half or two hours, from Moosejaw, Regina, or the police barracks, which are two miles west of the place, was reached. Here a guard of Mounted Police was waiting to receive the party and escort the members to the barracks. As it had been announced that service would be held in the chapel for the benefit of the party, all on board readily crossed the prairie to the barracks. Colonel Irvine, with a carriage, escorted Sir Richard Temple and one or two other members to the barracks. One of the large mess rooms was extemporized for a chapel, and in a few minutes we were all gathered in the apartment worshipping Him whose marvellous works we had so recently had an opportunity of admiring. A pleased expression overspread the faces of the travellers as they heard the familiar words read:

"All people that on earth do well." And heard the well-known tune "Old Hundred" played on the organ. His Lordship the Bishop of Ontario, read the prayers, Rev. Canon Ellegood read the hymns, and Sir Richard Temple read the lesson. The last hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee," was sung lustily, all following the lead of an excellent choir, composed of Mounted Police, and assisted by a piano. At the close of the prayer, Rev. H. Janes, a member of the party, addressed a few practical remarks to the company. Service over Colonel Irvine escorted the company about the barracks, calling attention to all the points of interest. The whistle of the engine warned us that we must make haste back and in a few minutes we were back on board the train again and whirling eastward.

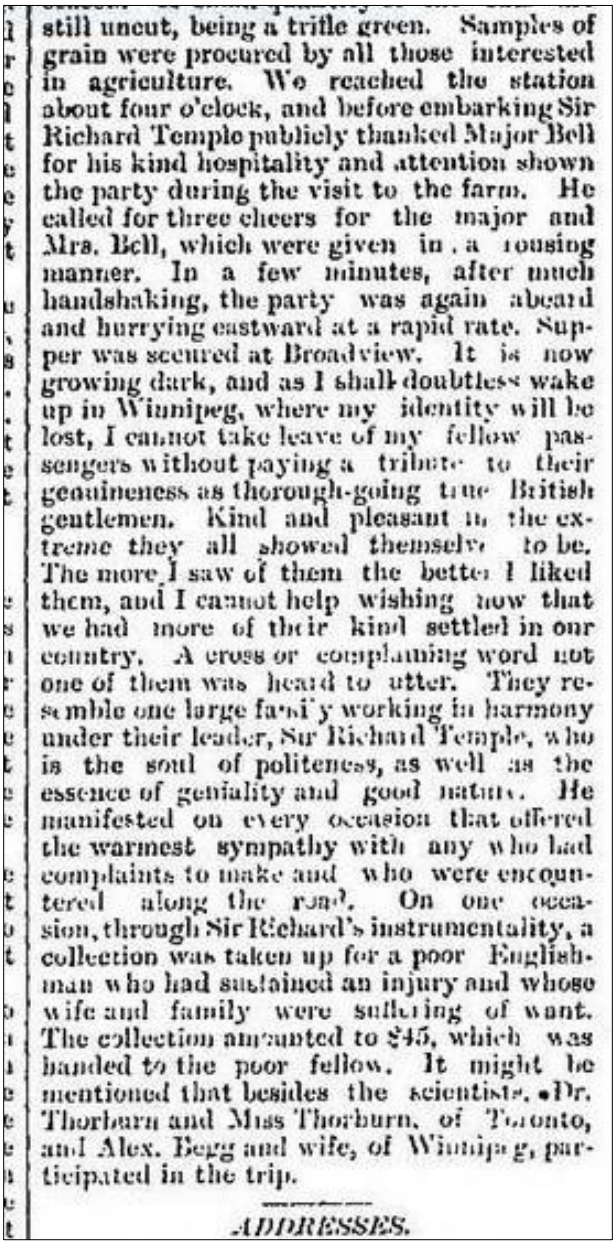
THE BELL FARM.

Word had been sent on to Indian Head that the train would stop there in order to give the party an opportunity of viewing the Bell Farm. It was about one o'clock when the train reached the station. Here about fifteen spring wagons and carriages were in waiting to convey us to the village and about the farm. At the hotel a capital free lunch was spread for those who wished to partake of it. The main body proceeded to the residence of



Major Bell, the popular manager of the farm. Here we were received in the spacious parlor of the comfortable homestead by Mrs. Bell, the winning hostess of the establishment. After some social chat we were invited to the dining-room, where a spread that would do credit to a palace was in waiting. Numerous delicacies of the choicest character filled the table, together with viands of a more substantial nature. The choicest wines and some excellent Bass' ale were also upon the table. It is needless to say that the latter was readily absorbed by the scientists, some of whom have been regretting the loss of their ale for the last few days. After lunch and kindest regards to the hostess, we visited the stables connected with the establishment, and after viewing the internal arrangements, we all re-entered the wagons again, and following the carriage of Major Bell, which contained besides the Major, Sir Richard Temple and Professors Fream and Sheldon, of agriculture, proceeded to drive about the colossal farm. In case some Winnipeggers have forgotten its dimensions, some figures are given in relation to it. It consists of 64,000 acres of probably as excellent land as can be found in the Territory. Of this, 7,000 acres are under cultivation, 5,000 growing wheat this summer and other 2,000 being sown with oats. This amount of cultivated land makes ten miles square. Besides this, 5,000 more acres have been broken within the past year. When this is backset next summer and seeded down there will be 12,000 acres under crop. We drove along good roads between fields of wheat which extended in many instances farther than the eye could reach. We were told that three-fourths of the wheat has already been cut. The remainder is now ready for the sickle, and will be cut during the present week if the weather continues favorable. A number of the men employed on the farm, of whom there are about 180, have already commenced fall ploughing, of which it is intended to do a very large amount this season. A small quantity of the oats are still uncut, being a trifle green. Samples of

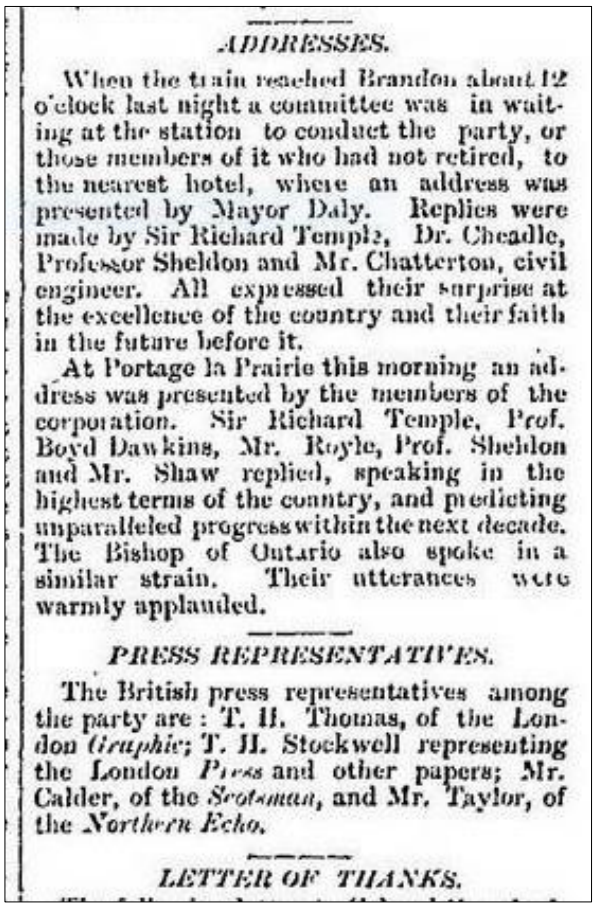
Part 1 of 14: 156 kb Part 2 of 14: 157 kb



still uncut, being a trifle green. Samples of grain were procured by all those interested in agriculture. We reached the station about four o'clock, and before embarking Sir Richard Temple publicly thanked Major Bell for his kind hospitality and attention shown the party during the visit to the farm. He called for three cheers for the major and Mrs. Bell, which were given in a rousing manner. In a few minutes, after much handshaking, the party was again aboard and hurrying eastward at a rapid rate. Supper was secured at Broadview. It is now growing dark, and as I shall doubtless wake up in Winnipeg, where my identity will be lost, I cannot take leave of my fellow passengers without paying a tribute to their genuineness as thorough-going true British gentlemen. Kind and pleasant in the extreme they all showed themselves to be. The more I saw of them the better I liked them, and I cannot help wishing now that we had more of their kind settled in our country. A cross or complaining word not one of them was heard to utter. They resemble one large family working in harmony under their leader, Sir Richard Temple, who is the soul of politeness, as well as the essence of geniality and good nature. He manifested on every occasion that offered the warmest sympathy with any who had complaints to make and who were encountered along the road. On one occasion, through Sir Richard's instrumentality, a collection was taken up for a poor Englishman who had sustained an injury and whose wife and family were suffering of want. The collection amounted to $45, which was handed to the poor fellow. It might be mentioned that besides the scientists, Dr. Thorburn and Miss Thorburn, of Toronto, and Alex. Begg and wife, of Winnipeg, participated in the trip.

ADDRESSES.

Part 3 of 14: 132 kb



ADDRESSES.

When the train reached Brandon about 12 o'clock last night a committee was in waiting at the station to conduct the party, or those members of it who had not retired, to the nearest hotel, where an address was presented by Mayor Daly. Replies were made by Sir Richard Temple, Dr. Cheadle, Professor Sheldon and Mr. Chatterton, civil engineer. All expressed their surprise at the excellence of the country and their faith in the future before it.

At Portage la Prairie this morning an address was presented by the members of the corporation. Sir Richard Temple, Prof. Boyd Dawkins, Mr. Royle, Prof. Sheldon and Mr. Shaw replied, speaking in the highest terms of the country, and predicting unparalleled progress within the next decade. The Bishop of Ontario also spoke in a similar strain. Their utterances were warmly applauded.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES.

The British press representatives among the party are: T. H. Thomas, of the London *Graphic*; T. H. Stockwell representing the London *Press* and other papers; Mr. Calder, of the *Scotsman*, and Mr. Taylor, of the *Northern Echo*.

LETTER OF THANKS.

Part 4 of 14: 105 kb

LETTER OF THANKS.

The following letter to Colonel Crawford, of Montreal, who had charge of the party from Montreal, was presented to him to-day :

On board the train.

Colonel J. D. Crawford.

DEAR SIR,—On behalf of the members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science who attended the excursion to the Rocky Mountains, it is my pleasant duty to express to you our best thanks for your kindness in undertaking on the part of our friends, the Montreal Local Committee, a journey of four thousand miles, in order to ensure our welfare and to interpret our wishes personally to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, on whose good offices we have largely depended. We shall have the pleasure of thanking separately the railway company. Meanwhile we beg you to convey to them and to our Montreal friends the cordial acknowledgments of the excursion party.

I am, dear sir,

Yours very faithfully,

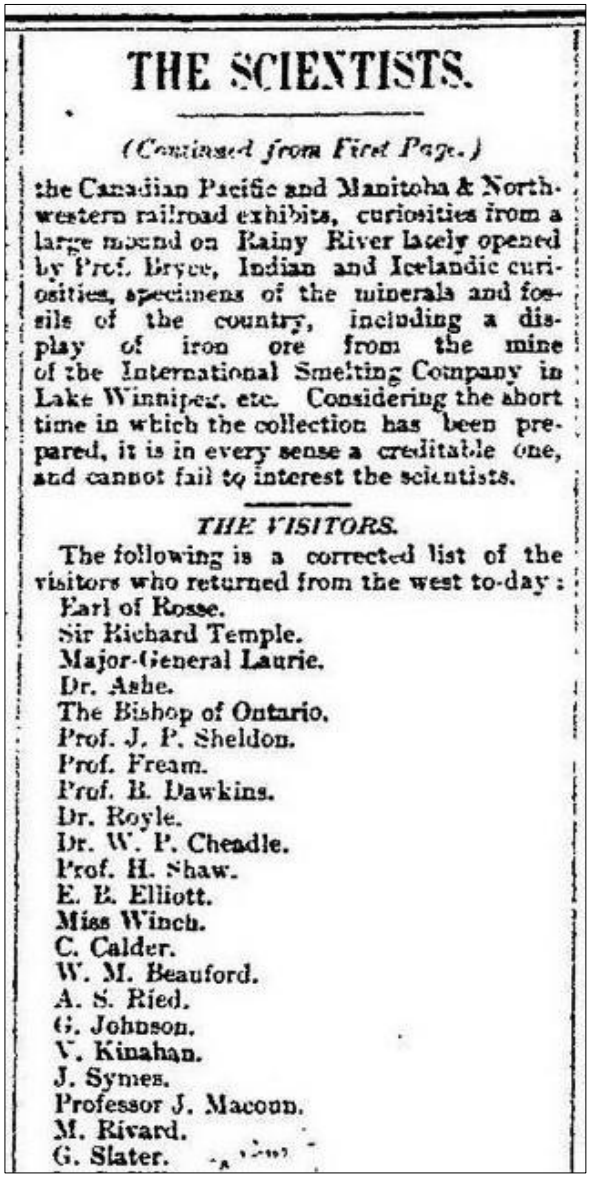
RICHARD TEMPLE.

THE EXHIBITION.

In connection with the visit of the British scientists to this city, the local Historical and Scientific Society arranged an exhibition for the purpose of giving the visitors an opportunity of witnessing the capabilities of this country in the way of agriculture and mineralogy, and also of peering into the past and witnessing many Indian and other customs not now to be seen. This exhibition was opened on Monday last in the hall on Hargrave street, formerly occupied by Knox Church congregation, pending the erection of the new church, and has since been open for the inspection of visitors. Already many Scientists have visited the exhibition, as is to be seen by the "autograph album" in charge of Secretary Hughan, and to-day the list of names will be largely added to. Noticeable features of the display will be found

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

Part 5 of 14: 106 kb



THE SCIENTISTS.

(Continued from First Page.)

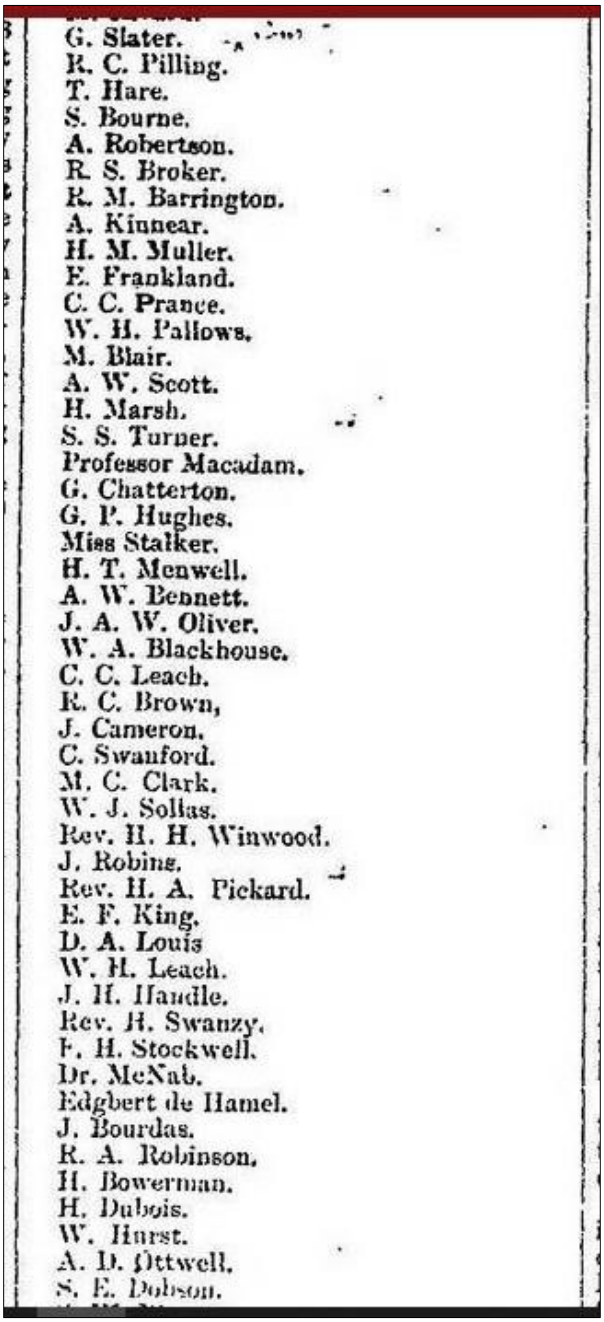
the Canadian Pacific and Manitoba & North-western railroad exhibits, curiosities from a large mound on Rainy River lately opened by Prof. Bryce, Indian and Icelandic curiosities, specimens of the minerals and fossils of the country, including a display of iron ore from the mine of the International Smelting Company in Lake Winnipeg, etc. Considering the short time in which the collection has been prepared, it is in every sense a creditable one, and cannot fail to interest the scientists.

THE VISITORS.

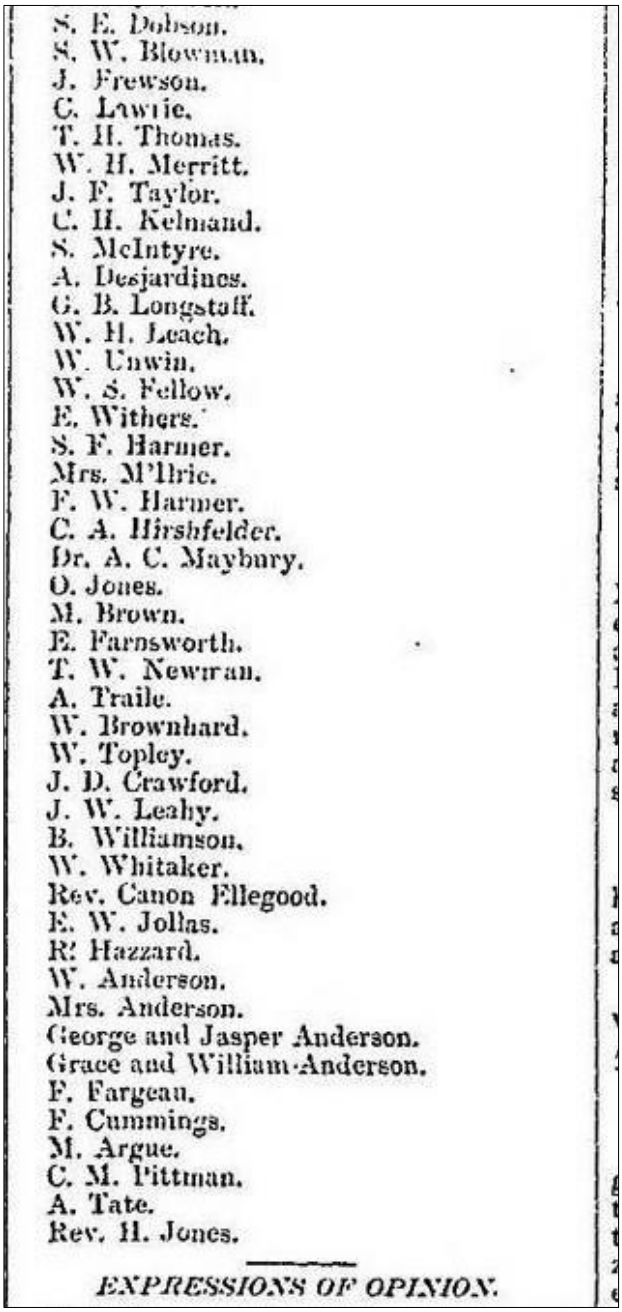
The following is a corrected list of the visitors who returned from the west to-day :

Earl of Rosse.
Sir Richard Temple.
Major-General Laurie.
Dr. Ashe.
The Bishop of Ontario.
Prof. J. P. Sheldon.
Prof. Fream.
Prof. B. Dawkins.
Dr. Royle.
Dr. W. P. Cheadle.
Prof. H. Shaw.
E. B. Elliott.
Miss Winch.
C. Calder.
W. M. Beauford.
A. S. Ried.
G. Johnson.
V. Kinahan.
J. Symes.
Professor J. Macoun.
M. Rivard.
G. Slater.

Part 6 of 14: 119 kb



G. Slater.
R. C. Pilling.
T. Hare.
S. Bourne.
A. Robertson.
R. S. Broker.
R. M. Barrington.
A. Kinnear.
H. M. Muller.
E. Frankland.
C. C. Prance.
W. H. Pallows.
M. Blair.
A. W. Scott.
H. Marsh.
S. S. Turner.
Professor Macadam.
G. Chatterton.
G. P. Hughes.
Miss Stalker.
H. T. Menwell.
A. W. Bennett.
J. A. W. Oliver.
W. A. Blackhouse.
C. C. Leach.
R. C. Brown,
J. Cameron.
C. Swanford.
M. C. Clark.
W. J. Sollas.
Rev. H. H. Winwood.
J. Robins.
Rev. H. A. Pickard.
E. F. King.
D. A. Louis
W. H. Leach.
J. H. Handle.
Rev. H. Swanzy.
F. H. Stockwell.
Dr. McNab.
Edgbert de Hamel.
J. Bourdas.
R. A. Robinson.
H. Bowerman.
H. Dubois.
W. Hurst.
A. D. Ottwell.
S. E. Dobson.

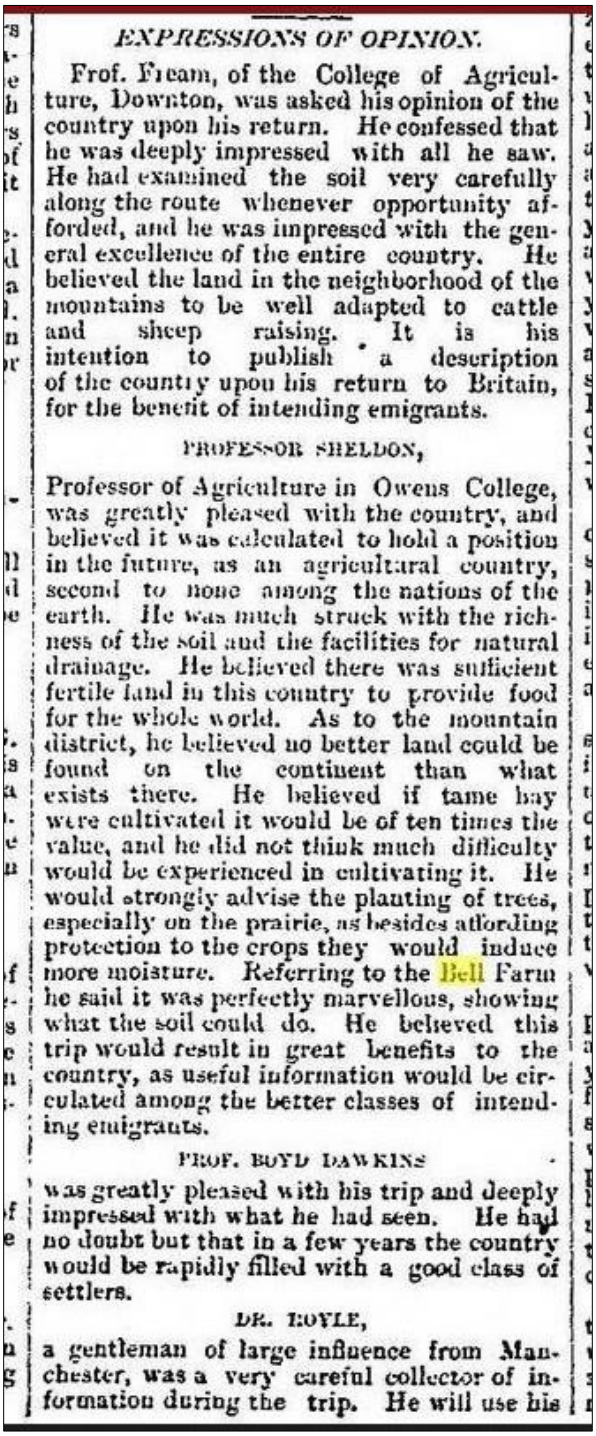


S. E. Dobson.
S. W. Blowman.
J. Frewson.
C. Lawrie.
T. H. Thomas.
W. H. Merritt.
J. F. Taylor.
C. H. Kelmand.
S. McIntyre.
A. Desjardines.
G. B. Longstaff.
W. H. Leach.
W. Unwin.
W. S. Fellow.
E. Withers.
S. F. Harmer.
Mrs. M'Ilric.
F. W. Harmer.
C. A. Hirshfelder.
Dr. A. C. Maybury.
O. Jones.
M. Brown.
E. Farnsworth.
T. W. Newman.
A. Traile.
W. Brownhard.
W. Topley.
J. D. Crawford.
J. W. Leahy.
B. Williamson.
W. Whitaker.
Rev. Canon Ellegood.
E. W. Jollas.
R. Hazzard.
W. Anderson.
Mrs. Anderson.
George and Jasper Anderson.
Grace and William Anderson.
F. Fargeau.
F. Cummings.
M. Argue.
C. M. Pittman.
A. Tate.
Rev. H. Jones.

EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION.

Part 7 of 14: 92 kb

Part 8 of 14: 87 kb



EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION.

Frof. Fream, of the College of Agriculture, Downton, was asked his opinion of the country upon his return. He confessed that he was deeply impressed with all he saw. He had examined the soil very carefully along the route whenever opportunity afforded, and he was impressed with the general excellence of the entire country. He believed the land in the neighborhood of the mountains to be well adapted to cattle and sheep raising. It is his intention to publish a description of the country upon his return to Britain, for the benefit of intending emigrants.

PROFESSOR SHELDON,

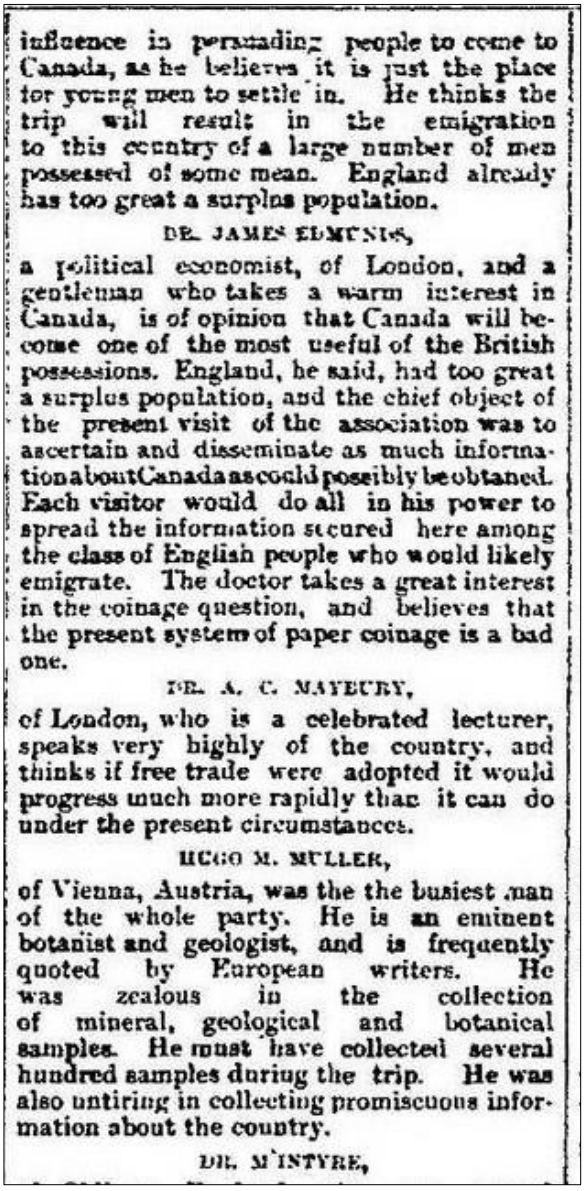
Professor of Agriculture in Owens College, was greatly pleased with the country, and believed it was calculated to hold a position in the future, as an agricultural country, second to none among the nations of the earth. He was much struck with the richness of the soil and the facilities for natural drainage. He believed there was sufficient fertile land in this country to provide food for the whole world. As to the mountain district, he believed no better land could be found on the continent than what exists there. He believed if tame hay were cultivated it would be of ten times the value, and he did not think much difficulty would be experienced in cultivating it. He would strongly advise the planting of trees, especially on the prairie, as besides affording protection to the crops they would induce more moisture. Referring to the Bell Farm he said it was perfectly marvellous, showing what the soil could do. He believed this trip would result in great benefits to the country, as useful information would be circulated among the better classes of intending emigrants.

PROF. BOYD DAWKINS

was greatly pleased with his trip and deeply impressed with what he had seen. He had no doubt but that in a few years the country would be rapidly filled with a good class of settlers.

DR. ROYLE,

a gentleman of large influence from Manchester, was a very careful collector of information during the trip. He will use his



influence in persuading people to come to Canada, as he believes it is just the place for young men to settle in. He thinks the trip will result in the emigration to this country of a large number of men possessed of some mean. England already has too great a surplus population.

DR. JAMES EDMUNDS,

a political economist, of London, and a gentleman who takes a warm interest in Canada, is of opinion that Canada will become one of the most useful of the British possessions. England, he said, had too great a surplus population, and the chief object of the present visit of the association was to ascertain and disseminate as much information about Canada as could possibly be obtained. Each visitor would do all in his power to spread the information secured here among the class of English people who would likely emigrate. The doctor takes a great interest in the coinage question, and believes that the present system of paper coinage is a bad one.

DR. A. C. MAYBURY,

of London, who is a celebrated lecturer, speaks very highly of the country, and thinks if free trade were adopted it would progress much more rapidly than it can do under the present circumstances.

HUGO M. MULLER,

of Vienna, Austria, was the the busiest man of the whole party. He is an eminent botanist and geologist, and is frequently quoted by European writers. He was zealous in the collection of mineral, geological and botanical samples. He must have collected several hundred samples during the trip. He was also untiring in collecting promiscuous information about the country.

DR. M'INTYRE,

Part 9 of 14: 198 kb

Part 10 of 14: 158 kb

DR. M'INTYRE,

of Oldham, England, who was named the philosopher of the party, speaks in the highest possible manner of the country. He believes it to be the proper field for young men with some means to come to in order to pursue farming.

MR. HENRY MARSH,

an influential manufacturer of Leeds, England, and a rising entomologist, speaks with enthusiasm about the country. He expresses surprise at the rare fertility of the soil, and its capacity.

ARRIVAL IN THE CITY.

When the train steamed into the depot the Scientists were conducted from the train to the Canadian Pacific Railway waiting room, where a circle was formed and Sir Richard Temple gave an address of thanks on behalf of the British Association to Mr. J. M. Egan, superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who accompanied the party on their trip to the Rockies. Sir Richard said that all were deeply grateful to him for the kindness and attention paid to them, and said that their trip had been made by him a remarkably pleasant and enjoyable one. Although they lost more than twenty-four hours in starting by Mr. Egan's tact and ability they had made it up and had made a very quick trip, but at the same time had seen every object of interest.

Mr. Egan replied very briefly, saying that he had done everything he could to make the trip enjoyable, and was very glad that he had succeeded.

It is understood that it is the intention of the association to present Mr. Egan with a tangible proof of their regard in the shape of a magnificent gold watch.

Another member of the association spoke in flattering terms of the work the managing committee had done, and thought that Sir Richard Temple and Profs. Dawkins and Clark, who composed it, were also well

Part 11 of 14: 173 kb

Richard Temple and Profs. Dawkins and Clark, who composed it, were also well worthy of a vote of thanks.

This vote of thanks was tendered the committee in a hearty manner, Prof. Clark replying to it briefly at Sir Richard's request.

After three enthusiastic cheers for Sir Richard Temple, the party dispersed and took the tram cars for the Historical Society's exhibition at Knox Church Hall.

THE LUNCH.

At one o'clock this afternoon lunch was served to the members at the Canadian Pacific restaurant, at the expense of the Government. Brief speeches will probably be delivered

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Aikins will hold an "at home" at Government House this afternoon, between 5 and 6 o'clock, to which the members of the British Association are particularly invited, and requested to leave their cards. This reception will give those of our citizens who are desirous an opportunity of meeting the scientists.

FORMAL RECEPTION.

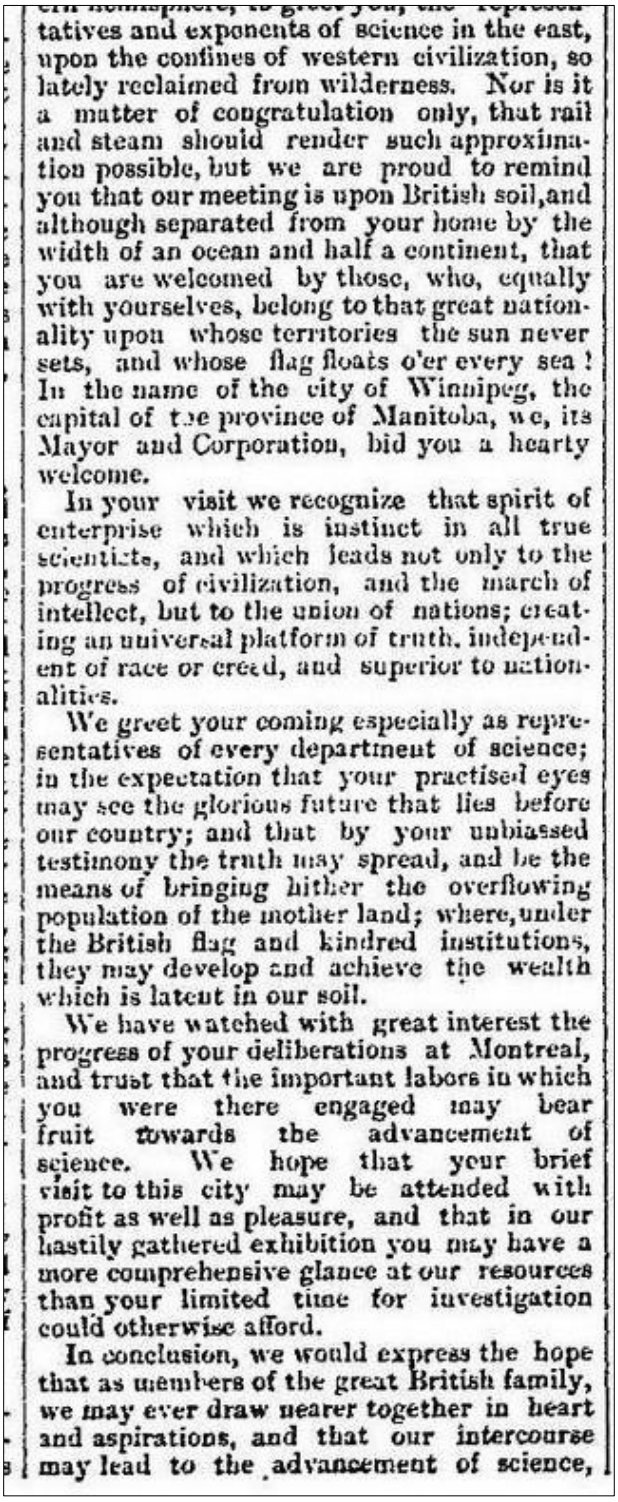
At 3 o'clock the formal reception will be held at Knox Hall, Premier, Prof. Bryce and Mayor Logan are expected to deliver addresses.

On this occasion the following address will be read by the mayor :

To the President and Members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science :

GENTLEMEN,—The progress of science, the genius of inventors, and the enterprise of the age which has linked in bonds of union the old and the new worlds, enables us, citizens of the most northern city of the western hemisphere, to greet you, the represen-

Part 12 of 14: 158 kb



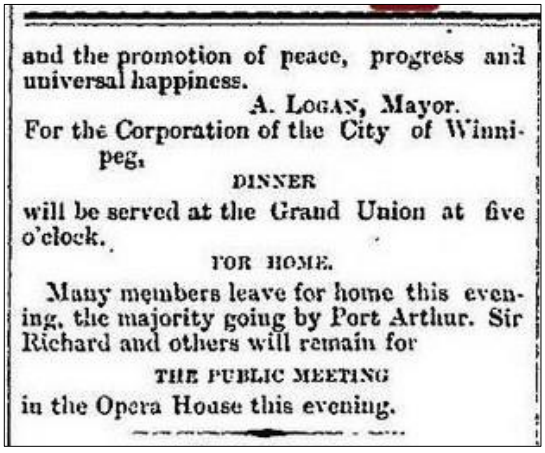
tatives and exponents of science in the east, upon the confines of western civilization, so lately reclaimed from wilderness. Nor is it a matter of congratulation only, that rail and steam should render such approximation possible, but we are proud to remind you that our meeting is upon British soil, and although separated from your home by the width of an ocean and half a continent, that you are welcomed by those, who, equally with yourselves, belong to that great nationality upon whose territories the sun never sets, and whose flag floats o'er every sea! In the name of the city of Winnipeg, the capital of the province of Manitoba, we, its Mayor and Corporation, bid you a hearty welcome.

In your visit we recognize that spirit of enterprise which is instinct in all true scientists, and which leads not only to the progress of civilization, and the march of intellect, but to the union of nations; creating an universal platform of truth, independent of race or creed, and superior to nationalities.

We greet your coming especially as representatives of every department of science; in the expectation that your practised eyes may see the glorious future that lies before our country; and that by your unbiassed testimony the truth may spread, and be the means of bringing hither the overflowing population of the mother land; where, under the British flag and kindred institutions, they may develop and achieve the wealth which is latent in our soil.

We have watched with great interest the progress of your deliberations at Montreal, and trust that the important labors in which you were there engaged may bear fruit towards the advancement of science. We hope that your brief visit to this city may be attended with profit as well as pleasure, and that in our hastily gathered exhibition you may have a more comprehensive glance at our resources than your limited time for investigation could otherwise afford.

In conclusion, we would express the hope that as members of the great British family, we may ever draw nearer together in heart and aspirations, and that our intercourse may lead to the advancement of science,



and the promotion of peace, progress and universal happiness.

A. LOGAN, Mayor.

For the Corporation of the City of Winnipeg,

DINNER

will be served at the Grand Union at five o'clock.

FOR HOME.

Many members leave for home this evening, the majority going by Port Arthur. Sir Richard and others will remain for

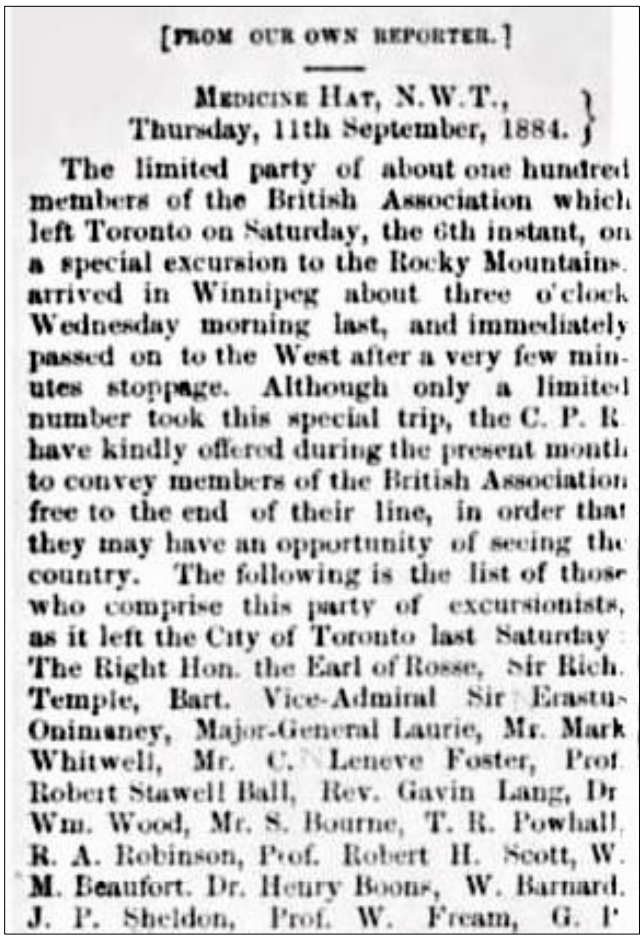
THE PUBLIC MEETING

in the Opera House this evening.

Part 13 of 14: 197 kb

Part 14 of 14: 72 kb

1884 – Sept. 17 - List of Tour Members – *Montreal Gazette:* Toronto List - / Medicine Hat



[FROM OUR OWN REPORTER.]

MEDICINE HAT, N.W.T.,
Thursday, 11th September, 1884.

The limited party of about one hundred members of the British Association which left Toronto on Saturday, the 6th instant, on a special excursion to the Rocky Mountains, arrived in Winnipeg about three o'clock Wednesday morning last, and immediately passed on to the West after a very few minutes stoppage. Although only a limited number took this special trip, the C. P. R. have kindly offered during the present month to convey members of the British Association free to the end of their line, in order that they may have an opportunity of seeing the country. The following is the list of those who comprise this party of excursionists, as it left the City of Toronto last Saturday: The Right Hon. the Earl of Rosse, Sir Rich. Temple, Bart. Vice-Admiral Sir Erastus Onimaney, Major-General Laurie, Mr. Mark Whitwell, Mr. C. Leneve Foster, Prof. Robert Stawell Ball, Rev. Gavin Lang, Dr. Wm. Wood, Mr. S. Bourne, T. R. Powhall, R. A. Robinson, Prof. Robert H. Scott, W. M. Beaufort, Dr. Henry Boons, W. Barnard, J. P. Sheldon, Prof. W. Fream, G. F. Hughes, H. J. Morton, Rev. H. Jones, G. W. Bloxham, Thos. Hart, O. F. Jones, Thos. Kingston, Henry Marsh, Mr. R. M. Barrington, Henry J. Mennell, Rev. W. H. Winwood, H. Bauerman, Prof. W. J. Sollas, A. B. Wynne, W. Whittaker, W. Topley, A. S. Reid, M. Blair, G. H. Kinahan, R. G. Symes, G. B. Longstaffe, Dr. P. L. Sclater, Dr. Ed. Frankland, Dr. W. B. Cheadle, Egbert de Hamel, W. Hurst, G. S. Turner, Henry Borns, Dr. Selwyn, H. Bragge, Prof. Macoun, Dr. Geo. M. Dawson, A. Desjardins, Rev. A. Joyce, John Robbins, Mr. John Leach, E. Farnworth, A. Late, Dr. W. B. Dawkins, Rev. H. A. Pickard, Geo. Chatterton, C. C. Leach, Jas. Dillon, R. A. Robinson, W. H. Leachy, W. Unwin, Mr. W. Barnard, S. Bourne, H. H. Meulier, F. Hovenden, Dr. W. R. McNab, A. W. Bennett, Dr. G. F. Dobson, W. L. Sclater, H. B. Dixon, C. A. Buckmaster, Prof. Chandler Roberts, Hon. C. W. Freemantle, Isaac Ashe, Dr. Peter Royle, J. D. Crawford, Bishop of Ontario, Alfred Kinnear, M. T. Stockwell, H. A. Calder, J. F. Taylor, J. A. W. Oliver, H. S. Hele Shaw, D. A. Louis, S. Smith, Wm. Thompson, S. Macadam, W. H. Perkin, Dr. Perkin, Dr. Gilbert, W. A. Traill, B. Williamson, and a representative of the Montreal GAZETTE. Of the trip from

British Association Tour – 1884 – Consolidated list – alphabetical

Nate 1: Text in blue added from list reprinted from newspaper articles above.

Note 2: Some names may be duplicated due to inability to determine correct spelling.

Note 3: Names in yellow signed the Bell Farm Visitors Register

Note 4: Names marked with a double asterisk - ** - sailed on board the *PARISIAN* on Aug. 6, 1884

A

Mrs. Anderson,

George Anderson,

Grace Anderson,

Jasper Anderson,

W. Anderson,

William Anderson,

M. Argue,

Dr. Mr. Isaac Ashe,

B

Prof. Robert Stadwell Ball,

Mr. W. Barnard,

Mr. R.M. Barrington,

Mr. H. Bauerman / Bowerman,

Mr. W. Morris Beauford /Beaufort

Alexander Begg, CPR

Mr. A.W. Bennett,

Bishop of Ontario , Rev. John Lewis

W.A. Blackhouse,

Mr. Matthew Blair,

S.W. Blowman,

** Mr. G.W. Bloxham,

** Dr. Henry Bonns / Boons

Henry Borns

Mr. Hy. Boras,

J. Bourdas,

Mr. Stephen Bourne,

R.S. Broker,

M. Brown,

C. Brown,

W. Brownshard,

Mr. H. Brugge / Bragge

Mr. C.A. Buckmaster,

C

C. Calder,

Mr. H.A. Calder,

J. Cameron,

** Mr. Geo. C. Chatterton,

Dr. W. (B.) P. Cheadle,

M.C. Clark,

Mr. J.D. Crawford,

F. Cummings,

D

** Prof. Dr. W. Boyd Dawkins,

Gerard Finch Dawson

Dr. G.M. Dawson,

Mr. A. Desjardines,

Mr. Jas. Dillon,

Mr. H.B. Dixon,

Dr. G.E. Dobson,

S.E. Donson,

H. Dubois,

E

Rev. Canon Ellegood,

Mr. E.B. Elliott,

F

F. Fargeau,

W.S. Fellow,

** Mr. C. Le Nuve Foster,

Dr. Ed. Frankland,

Mr. E. Fransworth / Farnworth

** Prof. W. Fream,

** Hon. C. W. Freemantle,

J. Frewson,

G

** Dr. Gilbert. (& Mrs.)

H

** Mr. Egbert de Hamel,

J.H. Handle,

Mr. Thomas Hare / Hart,

F.W. Harmer,

S.F. Harmer,

R. Hazzard,

C.A. Hirshfelder,

Mr. F. Hovenden,

Mr. G.P. Hughes,

** Mr. W. Hurst,

I

No Entries

J

G. Johnson,

E.W. Jollas,

** Rev. Harry Jones.

Mr. O.F. Jones,

** Rev. A. C. Joyce, (& Mrs.)

K

C.H. Kelmand,

V. Kinaham,

Mr. G.H. Kinalian / Kinahan

E.F. King,

Mr. Thomas Kingalon / Kingston

Mr. Alfred Kinnear,

L

Rev. Gavin Lang,

A. Late

Major General Laurie,

C. Lawrie,

Mr. C.C. Leach,

Mr. John Leach,

Mr. W.H. Leach / Leachy,

** J.W. Leahby (Leaby)

Rev. John Lewis, Bishop of Ontario

Mr. G.(B.) H. Longstaffe,

Mr. D.A. Louis,

M

Mr. Prof. S. Macadam,

Professor J. Macoun,

Mr. Henry J. Mannell / Mennell

Mr. Henry Marsh,

Dr. A.C. Maybury,

S. McIntyre,

** Dr. W.R. McNab,

H.T. Menwell,

W.H. Merritt,

Mrs. M'Ilrie,

Mr. H.J. Morton,

** Mr. Hugo M. Muller (Maulier / H.H. Meulier

N

T.W. Newman,

O

Mr. J.A.W. Oliver,

** Vice-Admiral Sir Erastus Oramanney (Ommanney),

A.D. Ottwell,

P

W.H. Pallows,

Mr. T.R. Palwhall,

** Mr. W.H. Parkin / Perkin,

** Dr. W.H. Parkin jr. / Perkin,

** 4th Earl of Rosse (Lawrence Parsons)

Alfred Pegler

Rev. H.A. Pickard,

R.C. Pilling,

C.M. Pitman,

T.R. Powhall,

C.C. Prance,

Q

No Entries

R

Mr. A.S. Reid,

M. Rivard,

Mr. John Robbins,

** Prof. W. Chandler Roberts,

A. Robertson,

Mr. R.A. Robinson,

Dr. Peter Royle,

S

** Dr. P.L. Sclater,

** Mr. W.L. Sclater,

Prof. A.W. Scott,

Prof. Robert H. Scott

Dr. Selwyn,

Prof. H. Shaw,

** Mr. H.S. Hale Shaw

** Prof. J.P. Sheldon,

G. Slater,

Mr. Swire Smith,

** Prof. W.J. Sollas,

Miss Stalker,

** Mr. M.T.(F.)H. Stockwell,

C. Swanford,

Rev. H. Swanzy,

J. Symes,

Mr. R.G. Symes,

T

Mr. A. Tate,

Mr. J.F. Taylor,

Sir Richard Temple,

** Mr. Thomas Henry Thomas,

** Mr. William Thompson (Manchester)

Dr. Thorburn (of Toronto)

Miss Thorburn (of Toronto)

** Mr. W. Topley,

Mr. W. A. Traile / Traill,

** Mr. G.S.S. Turner,

U

Mr. W. Unwin,

V

W

** Mr. W. Whitaker / Whittaker,

Mr. Mark Whitwall,

Mr. B. Williamson,

Miss Winch,

** Rev. W. (H.) H. Winwood,

E. Withers,

Dr. William Wood,

Mr. A.B. Wynne,

X

No Entries

Y

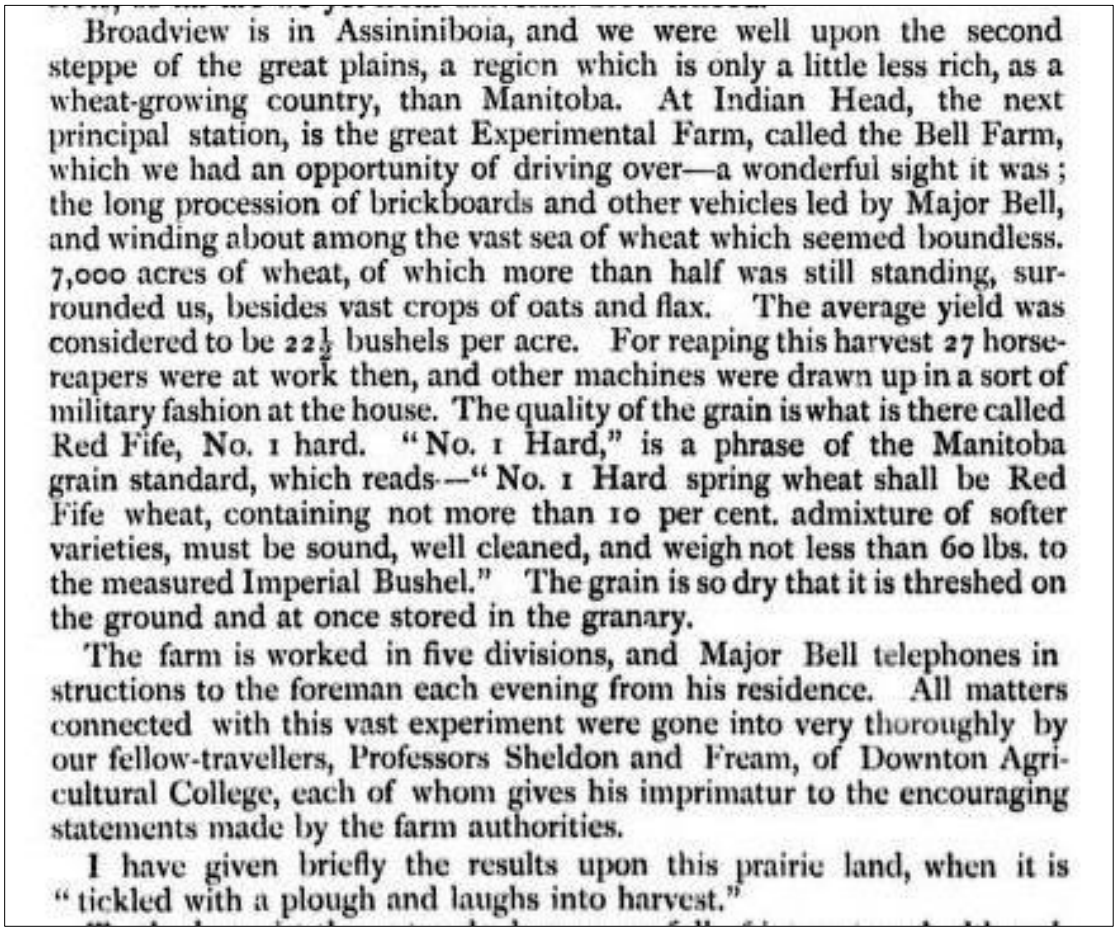
No Entries

Z

No Entries

++++++++++++++++++++

1884 – Thomas Henry Thomas, British Association member, report on visit to the Bell Farm, p. 8



Broadview is in Assiniboia, and we were well upon the second steppe of the great plains, a region which is only a little less rich, as a wheat-growing country, than Manitoba. At Indian Head, the next principal station, is the great Experimental Farm, called the Bell Farm, which we had an opportunity of driving over—a wonderful sight it was; the long procession of brickboards and other vehicles led by Major Bell, and winding about among the vast sea of wheat which seemed boundless. 7,000 acres of wheat, of which more than half was still standing, surrounded us, besides vast crops of oats and flax. The average yield was considered to be 22½ bushels per acre. For reaping this harvest 27 horse-reapers were at work then, and other machines were drawn up in a sort of military fashion at the house. The quality of the grain is what is there called Red Fife, No. 1 hard. "No. 1 Hard," is a phrase of the Manitoba grain standard, which reads—"No. 1 Hard spring wheat shall be Red Fife wheat, containing not more than 10 per cent. admixture of softer varieties, must be sound, well cleaned, and weigh not less than 60 lbs. to the measured Imperial Bushel." The grain is so dry that it is threshed on the ground and at once stored in the granary.

The farm is worked in five divisions, and Major Bell telephones instructions to the foreman each evening from his residence. All matters connected with this vast experiment were gone into very thoroughly by our fellow-travellers, Professors Sheldon and Fream, of Downton Agricultural College, each of whom gives his imprimatur to the encouraging statements made by the farm authorities.

I have given briefly the results upon this prairie land, when it is "tickled with a plough and laughs into harvest."

1884 – Aug. 12 – Alfred Pegler, from England, visits the Bell Farm and reports in considerable depth on its progress, also Major Bell's trophies on display (arrow p. 38), and reference to plowing by James Ewart (p. 39(:

settler life appear at intervals. Moosomin has about 60 houses and a score of tents, some larger than usual. Regarding the winter, I obtained some valuable information from the Rev. James Robertson, the Presbyter of the Presbyterian Church, whose charge extends from Port Arthur to Calgary. Mr. Robertson informed me that he had camped out from 25th September to 10th November in the snow, and has never been frost bitten; he has even slept under the lee of a willow without a tent, with the thermometer shewing 25 degrees of frost. At Moosomin the train was boarded by Corporal Harper, of the mounted police, who overhauled Leveillie, and saw that his spirit permit was *en règle*. Harper is a fine specimen of the body he represents; he looked more like a life's guardsman than a man on police duty, wearing a bright scarlet coat, jack boots, &c., carrying in a belt, each one exposed to sight, 20 rifle and 12 pistol ball cartridges, his revolver in the same belt, ready for immediate use. It was with some pleasure the corporal found two ladies in the car from his native county of Yorkshire. Indian Head is, like so many of the places I have alluded to, the creation of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Two years ago it did not exist. There are now many houses, two hotels running, and a large one, built by the Bell Farm Company, not opened, and which will probably be diverted from its original purpose, and be converted into a college. The experience of a night at the hotel was enjoyable, because it opened up a new phase of hotel life; still, one night's experience was sufficient. The house is unfinished, and the arrangements most crude. I was shown into a double-bedded room, and proceeded to lock the door, and should have done so had there been a lock. This might have saved me from disturbance, for shortly after I had retired two hardy sons of toil took possession of the other bed. The name of the place (Indian Head), an encampment of Indians just outside, and a general feeling of mistrust, induced me to peep beneath both beds, and it was with some little disappointment that no Indian's head met my view. The "fixings" of my room were unique; the bedstead of rough planks, rudely nailed together, and with such sharp edges, and the bed—a bag of straw so rough that it might well have served to work out a penance on. The only partition between it and the adjoining one, which I well knew to be occupied by a man and his wife, was brown paper, with a hole large enough in it for me to have got through; there were also a jug, without water, and one towel—and the towels here are less than half the size we use at home—between the three of us. I made a firm resolve that unless my room mates walked in their sleep, I would have the first turn at that towel, and so I did; but it involved my rising before six, though I had not retired till after one o'clock. Adjacent to my room a mother and child reposed, the "tootsey, wootsey's" of the little darling varying the sonorous sounds which emanated from the brown paper-partitioned room. Two ladies (Miss H. M. Hargreaves and Miss H. E. Pearson, members of the British Association) who arrived at the hotel at the same time fared better, so far as that they had a lock to their door. They were not quite content, however, with the appearance of their room, which was the quarters of one of the mounted police; still, they found the accoutrements useful, as supplying the lack of ordinary furniture—a pair of jack boots serving admirably in lieu of a dressing table. It must not be thought that I am complaining of the hotel; on the contrary, I admire the enterprise that runs an hotel under such circumstances, and deem myself fortunate in the experience it afforded me.

BELL FARM,

which technically is known as the Qu'appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, is situated in the valley from which it derives its name, and is in the territory of Assiniboia, 320 miles west of Winnipeg, upon the line of the C.P.R. In the spring of 1883, actual operations commenced upon 2,500 acres; this year this has been increased to 7,200 acres under crop, of which 5,500 is in wheat, in one continuous area, broken only by roads, one unbroken field comprising 1,500 acres. As a rule each field is two miles long by one mile wide. There are 1,300 acres under oats, and of flax 400 acres, which is believed to be the largest cultivation of flax ever known in one lot. A herd of 60 cows, about 200 head of horses, and a few swine are kept for home purposes. The capital of the Company is

159 kb

£120,000, in shares of £20, of which 45 per cent. is paid up. There are about 50 self-binders of the most improved type, half of United States and half of Canadian make; of steam machinery there are seven complete outfits of thrashers; there are about 100 sulky and gang ploughs, in addition to a large number of seeders, and all other implements necessary for the operations of a farm upon so extensive a scale. The territory of the farm is 10 miles by eight miles, say eighty thousand acres of land available for cultivation. The prospect at present is a yield of 30 bushels of wheat, of oats 50 bushels, and of flax 15 bushels per acre. If this estimate is realised (of which there can be but little doubt), the enormous quantity of 165,000 bushels of wheat and 70,000 of oats will be garnered on this one farm. I am promised the annual report, which will verify, or otherwise, the foregoing estimate. There are 100 men employed, accommodation being afforded for a large number on the farm. There are farm buildings of every kind, the ventilation of the stables being excellent; the cow shed, as usual in this country, groans beneath its tons of straw, which afford ample warmth, shelter, and heat; a large ice house supplies the necessary article for the use of the farm. The one wheat grown is that known as Red Fyfe, producing the quality known as No. 1 hard, and therefore commanding the highest price in the market. Major Bell, the founder of the farm, kindly met me at the hotel, and drove me there, where the kindly greeting of his amiable lady at once made me feel at home. We were fortunate enough to meet at the hospitable farm the Hon. E. Dewdney, governor of Assiniboia, and his lady, and it will be a source of regret if time prevents my acceptance of his kind invitation to visit him at Regina, the capital of the province.

Catching gophers is an industry of the Indians on the farm. Deemed a vermin, a cent each is placed on their tails. Many hundreds of the caudal appendage lay before me in Major Bell's office, and whilst I write, fifteen more are added to the number; the bodies of the rodent afford a meal to their destroyer. A table in the drawing-room is covered with prizes and mementoes of Major Bell's skill as a crack shot. The Major was one of the Canadian team that successfully competed at Wimbledon in 1871, and obtained other prizes from the year 1865. During the time when the difficulty arose in the East, and it was probable that war might ensue between Great Britain and Russia, it was expected that Canada would be called upon to supply an army corps. The Volunteers to a large extent tendered to Lord Dufferin their services to aid the British forces, and Major Bell was one of the first to display his patriotism. A telephonic system has been established on the farm, by which direct communication is made with all parts of the system, and this alone saves a large amount in horses and labour. Major Bell does not make sanguine estimates, but forms his calculations on such a low basis as to prevent disappointment. There is no scarcity of labour; in fact, the Bell Farm is a favourite field of labour. Farm labourers at this season receive 30 dollars per month, with board and lodging. The whole land is divided into smaller farms of 213 acres each; these are sub-divided into thirds, say 71 acres each, this being deemed the capacity of one plough and three horses. After harvest, one-third of this small farm is left fallow, and ploughed between seeding and harvest, thus being ready for seed the following year. In addition to the advantage to the ground from being fallowed, the economy of working is preserved with a balance between the slower operation of ploughing as compared to the harvesting. Major Bell claims that by the system he pursues, the economies in working the farm, and the advantages to be obtained by the use of the most perfect class of machinery, he can produce the highest quality of wheat, and place it on the cars for 35 cents; say 1s. 6d. per bushel, or 12s. per quarter. The farm was purchased partly from the Dominion Government, the C.P.R., and a small portion from the Hudson's Bay Company, at an average cost of about two dollars per acre; the portion of that bought from the latter was at a much higher figure than of the former, which greatly increased the average. The extensive yards of the Bell Farm present the appearance of an agricultural show. Rows of steam engines, binders, and every kind of implement meet the eye at every turn; every implement is manufactured specially for the farm, and bears an intimation to that effect. Seated by the side of the Major, and behind his handsome pair of bays (Sultan and Jack), I had the

156 kb

Summer fallow

pleasure of driving throughout the cultivated portions of the farm. There are studded about at various points 35 houses, of superior quality, in which the men reside. These receive 35 dollars per month, with house and an acre of land rent free. These men also board other men, for whom they receive five dollars per week—no small source of income to them. Close to each cottage is stabling, and at various points are erected 15 grain tanks, each to hold 1,000 bushels, besides granaries, to contain 5,000 bushels each. By depositing the grain as soon as thrashed in these receptacles much time and labour are saved. Great economy has been observed in working the land; generally it is broken, and then back set, or ploughed deeper a second time, but Major Bell has only worked the land once. There are 25 miles of trees planted around the farm, and one avenue four miles in length. The crops are excellent throughout, but there is one piece of wheat, of 1,500 acres, of such superior quality that I only wish my farmer friends could see it. There are 20 acres self grown, The wheat brickled out last year, and presents a fair crop. The fields are singularly free from weeds, but the young rose trees there are a few inches high, giving promise of beauty and fragrance next year. We drove along a wonderful furrow, two miles long, as straight as an arrow, the handiwork of a Scotchman, named James Ewart.

A melancholy spot was passed in a field—a row of eight graves, the resting place of children who had gone from the prairie to their eternal home. The marvellous change which has been wrought within a few years is proved by the Major's experience. Only two years since he came up from Brandon, the then terminus of the railway, with 120 yoke of oxen, 30 mules, and 11 horses, carts, &c., occupying six weeks on trail. Within a week he was enabled to return by train, the track having been completed in the meantime.

ABORIGINAL INDIANS.

An Indian has just brought in more gophers' tails. His dress is picturesque, if not over clean; his hair, which, like that of all his tribe, is long, is braided down to fine points, at the end of some of which are the tails of the gopher; he wears a row of gaily coloured beads, and carries a gun of ancient make; and his ears are ornamented at the top with rings. A gay fellow of his tribe is riding by; his attire is gaudy in the extreme, his head gear being of the orthodox bazaar type; he, too, has an ancient gun slung across his shoulder. There are about 25 wigwams of Assiniboine Indians near. They are indeed in a state of nature, and some could even vie with the noble savage whose only apparel was an umbrella and a pair of spurs. The young Indians are skilful in the use of the bow and arrow, shooting birds and gophers with some degree of certainty. An elderly Indian having the front of his hair tufted in a gopher skin, we, by signs, elicited from him that it was a talisman to the happy hunting grounds beyond. This man appeared to think he had not obtained full payment for his gopher tails; so I gave him a five cent piece. This appeared to be in excess of what he thought his due; and he went off and secured an additional tail, and brought it in as small change. By signs he informed me that he had two papouse, and that they had worked the mocassins he was wearing. I passed a store where the Government keep a supply of Red River carts, ploughs, and tents, which they distribute amongst any of the Indians who may desire to engage in agriculture.

THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE ON FARMING.

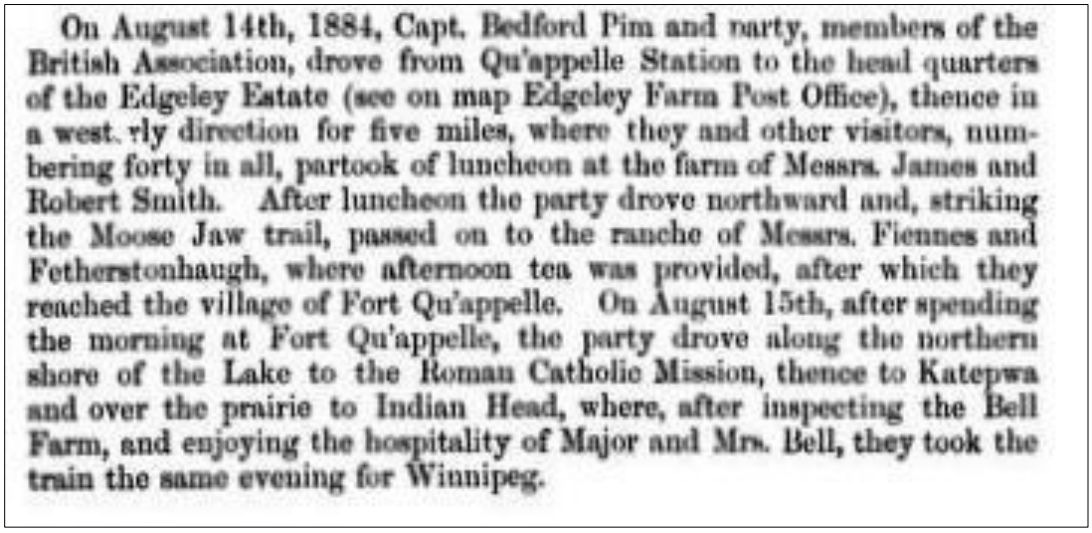
As an instance of an unusual crop, I was informed that Mr. Angus McKay, of Indian Head, harvested 400 bushels of wheat from 10 acres in 1883. My informant, Mr. D. A. McArthur, saw the corn thrashed and weighed. The climate is such that the farmers have no fear as to the weather. The doubt which ever exists in England as to whether the harvest will be fine is unknown in this country, though there is a slight feeling as to the possibility of frost. The same informant told me of 18 years continuous farming without manure, the crops not becoming less. This was the experience of Mr. T. Cavanagh, who resides 18 miles from Indian Head. Mr. McArthur also said that if fifty labouring men were to go to Indian Head next spring they would find employment; but, as he said, they must be the right sort—hardworking, frugal men.

155 kb

James Ewart – straight furrows; 8 children's graves on farm

Source: A Visit to Canada in connection with the British Association Meeting, 1884.

1884 – August 15 – *Guide to the Qu'Appelle Valley,* Assiniboia, by R, Sykes, includes on p. 29 tour by Bedford Pim of British Association to Bell Farm.



On August 14th, 1884, Capt. Bedford Pim and party, members of the British Association, drove from Qu'appelle Station to the head quarters of the Edgeley Estate (see on map Edgeley Farm Post Office), thence in a westerly direction for five miles, where they and other visitors, numbering forty in all, partook of luncheon at the farm of Messrs. James and Robert Smith. After luncheon the party drove northward and, striking the Moose Jaw trail, passed on to the ranche of Messrs. Fiennes and Fetherstonhaugh, where afternoon tea was provided, after which they reached the village of Fort Qu'appelle. On August 15th, after spending the morning at Fort Qu'appelle, the party drove along the northern shore of the Lake to the Roman Catholic Mission, thence to Katepwa and over the prairie to Indian Head, where, after inspecting the Bell Farm, and enjoying the hospitality of Major and Mrs. Bell, they took the train the same evening for Winnipeg.

1884 - Aug. 21 – *Regina Leader* p. 1 – Squatter Arbitrators Taylor and Woods visit Bell Farm and Regina area

"**Visit of the Bell Farm Arbitrators to Regina:** In the end of last week we had a visit from Messrs. John T. Wood M.P. for Brockville and George Taylor of Gananoque, M.P. for South Leeds who, being at the Bell Farm were anxious to see Regina and the country around it.

1884 – Aug 21 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Settlement between Bell Farm and Squatters

"THE BELL FARM V. THE SQUATTERS

Mr. T.C. Johnstone of Regina the solicitor of the Squatters on the Bell Farm who is now at Ottawa has succeeded in making a satisfactory arrangement on behalf of his clients. An agreement has been signed at the Capital embodying the terms of the settlement, the squatters are to vacate the lands they now hold and are to receive from the Company in cash the value of their interest in the same including their improvements such value to be determined by arbitration, the squatters are to be provided with homesteads and pre-emptions elsewhere and are to be entitled to a patent after one years residence instead of the usual period of 3 years. The squatters also obtain other advantages but these appear to be the main features of the agreement."

1884 – Aug. 22 – *Prince Albert Times,* p. 6 – NW Council and squatters issue:

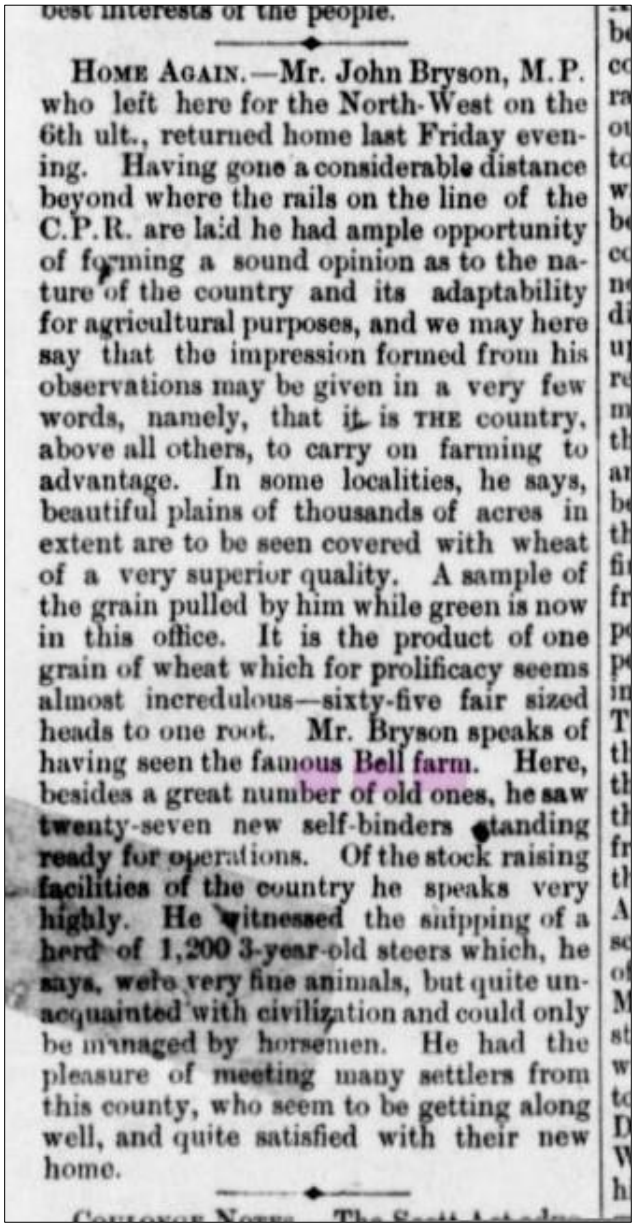
"Mr. Ross proposed a series of resolutions relative to the rights of squatters on Regina, Moose Jaw and Bell Farm reserves, to which Mr. White moved in amendment the following: -

1."That in the opinion of this Council a memorial should be sent through the Executive Council to the Dominion Government urging upon the Hon. The Minister of the Interior the advisability of at once recognizing the full claims of all bona fide settlers in the Regina and Moose Jaw reserves."

1884 – Aug. 27 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – Professor Goldwin Smith to Bell Farm

"Professor Goldwin Smith dined at Government House last night, and left for the Bell Farm this morning."

1884 – Sept. 4 – *The Equity, Bryson, County of Pontiac, Quebec* – John Bryson visits the famous Bell Farm



best interests of the people.

HOME AGAIN.—Mr. John Bryson, M.P. who left here for the North-West on the 6th ult., returned home last Friday evening. Having gone a considerable distance beyond where the rails on the line of the C.P.R. are laid he had ample opportunity of forming a sound opinion as to the nature of the country and its adaptability for agricultural purposes, and we may here say that the impression formed from his observations may be given in a very few words, namely, that it is THE country, above all others, to carry on farming to advantage. In some localities, he says, beautiful plains of thousands of acres in extent are to be seen covered with wheat of a very superior quality. A sample of the grain pulled by him while green is now in this office. It is the product of one grain of wheat which for prolificacy seems almost incredulous—sixty-five fair sized heads to one root. Mr. Bryson speaks of having seen the famous Bell farm. Here, besides a great number of old ones, he saw twenty-seven new self-binders standing ready for operations. Of the stock raising facilities of the country he speaks very highly. He witnessed the shipping of a herd of 1,200 3-year-old steers which, he says, were very fine animals, but quite unacquainted with civilization and could only be managed by horsemen. He had the pleasure of meeting many settlers from this county, who seem to be getting along well, and quite satisfied with their new home.

120 kb

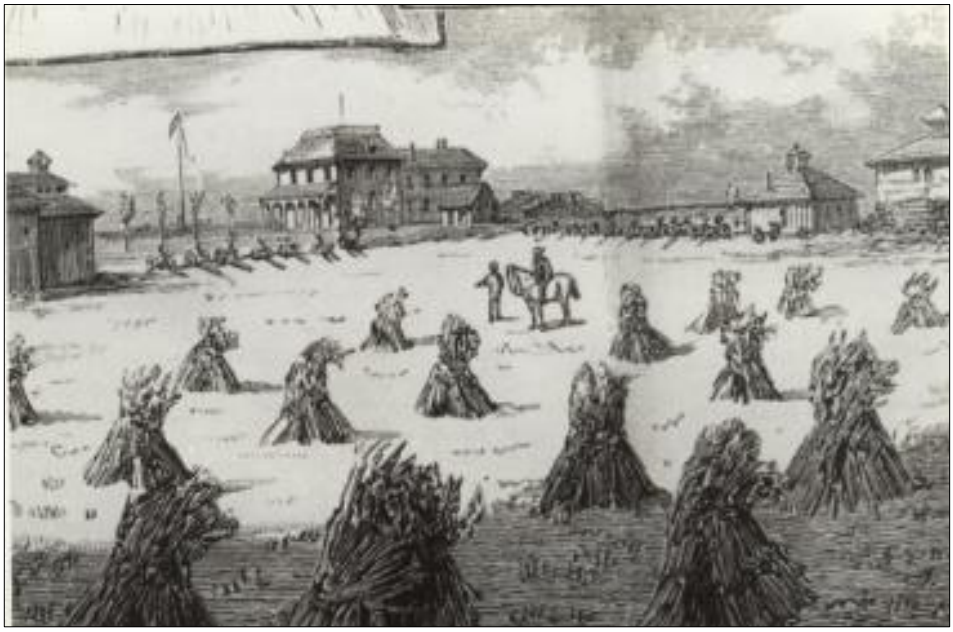
1884 – Sept. 4 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 8 – Mrs. Groom's group of Deaf Mutes work at Bell Farm

"Mr. John Parker, agent for Mrs. Groom, visited Wolseley last week. There had an additional ten deaf-mutes arrived from Winnipeg, where she had left them to get work. Five of them have obtained employment at the Bell Farm, and the other five have been taken to Indian Head where they are all in employment with farmers and in full hope of getting farms of their own speedily."

1884 – Sept. 5 – Letter from Dewdney to Macdonald – brickmaking at Indian Head

"The Brickmaker has some 60,000 bricks & is burning fresh kilns."

1884 – early September – Thomas H. Thomas, special artist with the "*Graphic*", accompanies the British Association and makes this sketch of the Bell Farm. A portion of the round barn is visible on the far right in this view.



148 kb

1884 – Sept. 10 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Bell Farm crop report

"**THE CROPS.** INDIAN HEAD. Indian Head, N.W.T. Sept. 9. – The weather to-day is all that could be wished for harvesting. Thirty-five binders are at work on the Bell farm. The grain is all fully ripe, and, excepting a few oats, beyond danger from frost. The quality and quantity of the wheat exceeds expectations. Major Bell is cutting at the rate of eight hundred acres per day. The weather is warm and partly cloudy, with a light south wind."

1884 – Sept. 10 – NWMP horse theft at the Bell Farm – Burton Deane account, in " *Mounted Police Life in Canada"*, (1916), p. 17.

"On September 15, 1884, I received a telegram from Major Bell, that in the course of the previous night fifteen horses had been stolen from the Bell Farm and driven rapidly southwards towards the line. Sergeant Blight and a couple of men from Regina succeeded in recovering seven of the horses in Montana, and as the tracks of only nine animals could be found on the south side of the Missouri River it was conjectured that the others had been driven to exhaustion, and some of them possibly drowned in attempting to cross. I asked Major Bell afterwards how it was that the thieves managed to get the horses out of locked stables, and he replied, "Oh, we gave up that practice; it became too tiresome!"

(see Oct. 16 for details on the arrest)

1884 – Sept – Bell Farm Horse Theft, (as reported in *Coleman Bulletin*, Dec. 7, 1917, p. 2; and in the *Empress Express*, Dec. 13, p. 12.; and *Strathmore Standard,* Nov. 18, 1917, p. 6.)

"**The Assiniboine Indians** - . . . Some years ago when horse stealing was common on the plains, Major Bell, who operated the Bonanza farm at Indian Head, had some valuable animals stolen

out of his barn. No one had seen them go and there was no trace of them left in the country. The commissioner of the Mounted Police asked Colonel Macdonald of Crooked Lakes, who at that time was Indian Agent for Treaty 7, if he could supply an Indian tracker. The colonel went down to the Assiniboine reserve and brought up two old hunters. They picked up the trail at the door of Major Bell's stable and loped away on it to the American boundary. They never lost it despite that fact that a herd of cattle crossed it in the Yellow Grass Marsh, and eventually came up with the horse thieves on the banks of the Yellowstone. The horses were recovered and turned over to Major Bell. – Regina Post. "

1884 – Sept. 10-12 - Sir John Lister-Kaye diary excerpts –(transcripts by Hugh Henry)

NOTE from Hugh Henry: Balgonie is on Sec. 3 T18 R17; Lister-Kaye's property included the two sections in T18, noted, as well as 11 sections (not in a block) immediately south of Balgonie, within six miles of town. The initial purchases were from the CPR (Winnipeg office) in Sept., 1884, then added to in subsequent years. Financing of the purchases is unclear, but property was disposed of in 1889 because of financial difficulties related to Canadian Agricultural, Coal & Colonization Co. (commonly called the 76 Ranches).

<u>Wednesday, September 10</u>
Start by 8:30 a.m. [Winnipeg] train for Indian Head, with Mr. Nelson and Mr. Struthers, a C.P.R. land surveyor. We arrive at Indian Head at 12:00 midnight. Sleep comfortably at hotel.

<u>Thursday, September 11</u>
Start in buckboard at 6:15 a.m., drive about to see the crops, 5,000 in wheat, 2,000 in oats, 500 in flax. Breakfast with Major & Mrs. Bell after whom the Farm is called the Bell Farm at 7:30. At 8:15 drive again with Major Bell around the Farm, see the Brantford self-binder, price to Mr. Bell $160. See his cottages going up of stones picked off the land, mason's work $55 per cottage. Start at 10:40 a.m. on freight train to Qu'Appelle where we dine, and at 1:30 drive off to see the Sykes farm five miles north where Mr. Cameron the manager shows us the steam plough at work with harrows attached. Drive down to the railroad through a beautiful bluff country; lakes woods and intermediate cultivation. Arrive at Balgonie at 9:45, capital supper. Nelson, Struthers and I sleep on the floor in the spare room.

<u>Friday, September 12</u>
Breakfast at 7:00. Start out with Mr. Dixon a pioneer settler, to see the land. Sections 1 and 5 in T 18, R 17; Sections 21,23,25,27,33,35 in T 17, R 17. We go carefully over the land and find it a fine loam, with good clay traces subsoil. We take train at 4.oc to Regina. Mr. Lewis the station master is most pleasant. We arrive at Regina at 5.oc, dine there, walk round, about 1,500 inhabitants. Take train [to Brandon, then Winnipeg] at 10:40 p.m. Glad of "sleeper."

1884 – September 10 - excerpt from the diary of Sir John Lister Kaye – visit to Bell Farm:

"Breakfast with Captain Bell and Mrs. Bell at the Bell Farm. I sign his Visitor's Register, a most impressive book. We drive around crops, 5000 acres in wheat, 2000 in oats, 500 in flax. I see his cottages made up of stones picked off the land, mason's work, $55.00 per cottage. Take the freight train to Qu'Appelle where we dine at 1:30. Drive through beautiful country, arrive Balgonie 7:45. Capital supper. Write to Natica."

(Source: e-mail from Mary Stratford Thomson, Eastend, Sask. to Bell Barn Society: 7 Dec. 2015)

1884 – Sept. 10 – NWMP Annual Report details horse theft at the Bell Farm

Having, on the information of John Paul, the aforesaid farmer, obtained a warrant from a Broadview magistrate, for the arrest of four of the gang in question, he followed them from Troy (recovering on the road one of the stolen horses, which had been traded with a settler) to the neighborhood of the Turtle Mountains, found them with another of the stolen animals in their possession, apprehended, and brought them to Regina, where they were sentenced to various terms in the penitentiary by Col. Richardson. After the conviction constable Hooper followed and arrested near Fort Ellice a fifth member of the gang, who stole the other two horses. One of these was taken from the thief and restored to its owner by "Little Child," a chief on the Crooked Lakes reserve, and the other died while on its way north in the thief's possession. This prisoner received a sentence of three years in the penitentiary. On the 3rd of August these five convicts were accompanied to Stony Mountain by two other horse thieves, one apprehended by constables Parkins and Halliday, from Fort Qu'Appelle, at the south branch of the Saskatchewan, with the stolen mare in his possession, and the other, an Assiniboine Indian who was arrested by interpreter Leveille near the Cypress Hills, and admitted his guilt. Between 10 p.m. of the 14th September last, and 4 a.m. next day, fifteen horses were stolen from the Bell Farm and driven rapidly southwards to the line. This was evidently the work of an organized gang of horse thieves from beyond the border, as shown by the sequel. The horses were driven directly south from Indian Head, having crossed the Missouri about thirty-two miles to the eastward of Fort Buford. Some time after 4 a.m. on the 15th, Major Bell, with a party of men and Indians, started after the thieves. He telegraphed to me, and to constable Hooper, at Troy, and the latter at once hired the only two obtainable horses in the place, and with another constable, followed in pursuit. These horses, unfortunately, played out after going about forty miles, and constable Hooper was compelled to give up the chase and return to Troy. Major Bell, who had the most reasonable prospect of coming up with the thieves, appears to have lost the trail, as on the 16th he notified to me his return from the south-east without trace of the thieves, and enquired whether I had sent out any constables. Seeing that Regina is forty miles to the west of Indian Head, and the fugitives were travelling south from the later place, a party starting from Regina must necessarily have travelled along the third side of a triangle, and it would have been a good day's ride merely to pick up the trail (supposing even that they could have struck it by taking a south-easterly direction at chance) and their horses must then have halted for rest; the thieves, meanwhile, driving their unfortunate animals to exhaustion. To resume the account; I informed Major Bell that I had telegraphed to the officers commanding at Forts Buford and Assiniboine, asking them to do what they could towards recovering the stolen horses; meanwhile, I knew that constable Hooper would not relinquish the pursuit as long as there was any chance of success. On the 16th I heard that he and his companion had been able to proceed no further, and Sergt. Blight and two men were sent from Regina, at Major Bell's request, to accompany another party which was about to start.

This party started the next morning, and followed the trail to the Missouri River, picking up on the road one of the missing horses, which had "played out" and been abandoned. At the Missouri Sergt. Blight reports that, having changed into plain clothes, he went to Fort Buford, thirty-two miles to the westward, on the way finding two more of the stolen horses, which were tied to a fence at a ranchman's place. At Fort Buford he engaged the services of the United States Deputy Marshal, and retraced his steps to the crossing of the Missouri, whence, with the Deputy Marshal, two constables, an interpreter and three Indians, he followed up the trail. Up to the time of their reaching the river the trail had showed that seventeen horses were in the band, but on the other side the marks of only nine could be found, the inference being that some of the balance were too much exhausted to swim across and were drowned. Sergt. Blight's report thus describes their further journey:—"Continuing through the bad lands, where we were for thirty-six hours without food or water, we arrived on the bank of the Yellowstone River, and there in the bush found four of the stolen horses tied up to trees, but nobody with them. I removed

the horses and camped close by. On searching further I discovered some harness and saddlery belonging to the 'Bell Farming Company.' I had hopes that the thieves would return to feed the horses, but they, having most likely received information of our whereabouts, did not do so; so on the following day we proceeded to the Benny Piers, taking the recovered stock with us. There, owing to the stock having been so overdriven, we had to rest for a couple of days, and then proceeded to Ridge Lawn. On arrival at this place, from information I received, accompanied by the Deputy Marshal and one constable, I proceeded to where the thieves were said to reside, and there discovered a gang of eight, all well armed, so the Deputy Marshal deemed it advisable to send to Miles City for a sheriff's posse. While we were waiting for this assistance the thieves broke camp and started for Glendive, were met by the sheriff, arrested and taken to Miles City. Finding I could do nothing further in the matter we started for Indian Head, taking with us the recovered stock; arrived there on the 16th October, and handed over stock to Major Bell."

In August last, in consequence of a communication from the Collector of Customs at Brandon, to the effect that thieves with forty head of horses were in the Riding Mountains, Supt. Shurtliff proceeded northwards from Brandon, in company with Mr. Hessan, to ascertain, if possible, their exact location, sending on his party of one non-commissioned officer and eight men to Newdale to await orders. It had been reported to Dr. Harrison, M. P. P., who lives about fifty miles north-east of Brandon, on the Little Saskatchewan River, that the horses were on a small prairie about fifteen miles up the Rolling River. "That part of the Riding Mountains" says Supt. Shurtliff, is densely crowded with timber, this prairie being the only place where the horses could go, there being only two trails leading to it, one from the mouth of Rolling River and the other from the Hudson Bay Company's post at Riding Mountain." Having, on the recommendation of Mr. Armitt, in charge of the Hudson Bay post, engaged two reliable men to act as scouts, Supt. Shurtliff returned to Newdale for his detachment and conducted them to the Hudson Bay post in question, where he was met by the scouts and informed that there were no horses or tracks of horses in the vicinity. In order to verify this report, Supt. Shurtliff visited a settler, who lives at the mouth of Rolling River, and who was supposed to have originated the report about the thieves and horses. This he denied, and said further, that there had been only one horse thief in that neighborhood, and that he had gone into the mountains by way of the Hudson Bay post, and come out by his place with three horses. He, the settler, had bought one of the horses, not knowing the vendor to be a horse thief, and that the two others had been sold in Rapid City—these latter were subsequently seized for Custom duties.

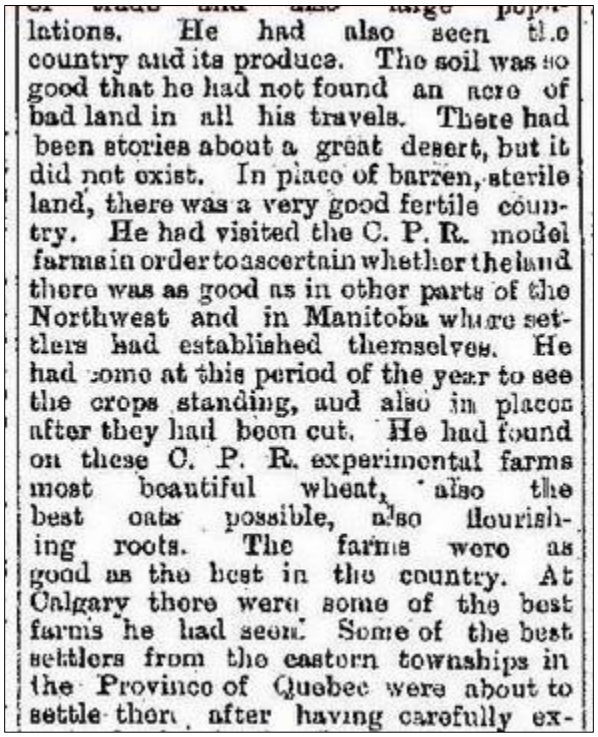
Superintendent Shurtliff's report concludes: "I have found that these thieves have agents to inform them when there are any parties to arrest them, and therefore found it necessary to travel night and day to arrest them, if possible, before they could get information of our being in pursuit of them."

This party, as constituted above, then proceeded to watch the southern frontier of Manitoba in the interests of the settlers, as opposed to the horse thieving fraternity, who were, I am happy to report, on that or on other accounts, conspicuous by their absence.

In connection with horse stealing, no less than in other crimes, the Vagrant Act has been found, in the West, to be very efficacious. Suspicious characters who have been in the habit of loitering about, with no apparent means of gaining a livelihood, notwithstanding that, in some cases they have been well supplied with money, and who, it is well known, are merely acquiring local information and awaiting opportunities to raid settlers' horses, or commit some other breach of the law, have been given twenty-four hours to quit the place; and, as a rule, they have promptly availed themselves of the invitation.

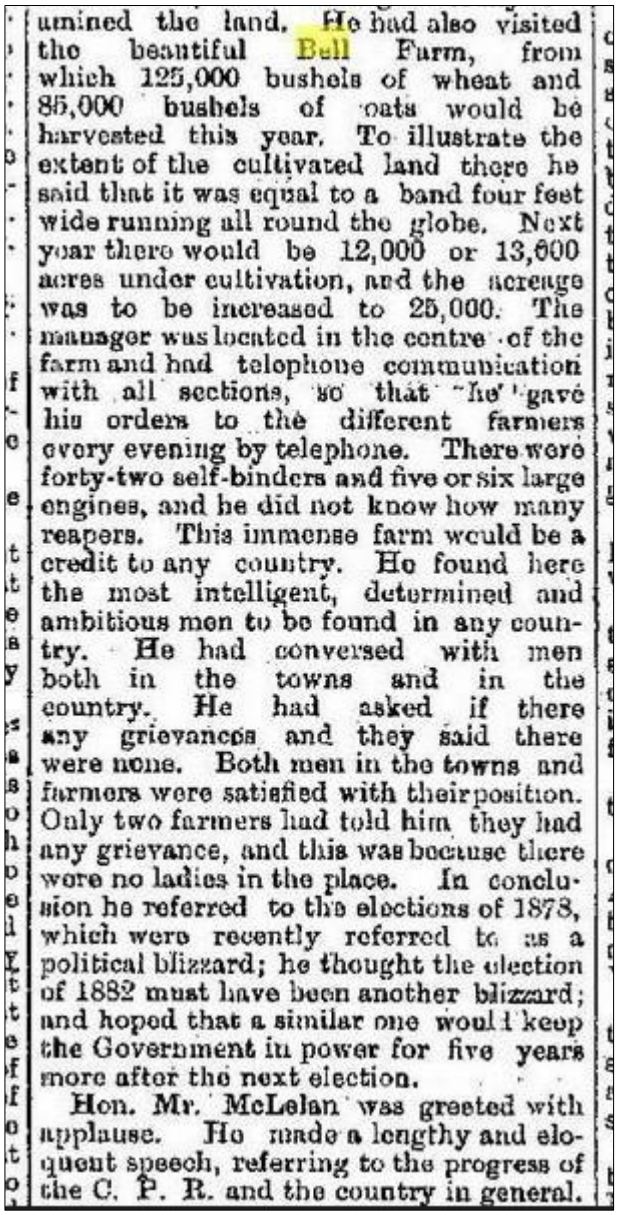
The clause in the Larceny Act providing for the bringing of stolen property into Canada has also a very beneficial effect, and it is to be regretted that a similar law is not in force in the United States.

1884 – Sept. 11 – *Manitoba Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Extract of Hector Langevin's tour of the Bell Farm



lations. He had also seen the country and its produce. The soil was so good that he had not found an acre of bad land in all his travels. There had been stories about a great desert, but it did not exist. In place of barren, sterile land, there was a very good fertile country. He had visited the C. P. R. model farms in order to ascertain whether the land there was as good as in other parts of the Northwest and in Manitoba where settlers had established themselves. He had come at this period of the year to see the crops standing, and also in places after they had been cut. He had found on these C. P. R. experimental farms most beautiful wheat, also the best oats possible, also flourishing roots. The farms were as good as the best in the country. At Calgary there were some of the best farms he had seen. Some of the best settlers from the eastern townships in the Province of Quebec were about to settle there after having carefully ex-

Part 1 of 2: 116 kb



amined the land. He had also visited the beautiful Bell Farm, from which 125,000 bushels of wheat and 85,000 bushels of oats would be harvested this year. To illustrate the extent of the cultivated land there he said that it was equal to a band four feet wide running all round the globe. Next year there would be 12,000 or 13,000 acres under cultivation, and the acreage was to be increased to 25,000. The manager was located in the centre of the farm and had telephone communication with all sections, so that he gave his orders to the different farmers every evening by telephone. There were forty-two self-binders and five or six large engines, and he did not know how many reapers. This immense farm would be a credit to any country. He found here the most intelligent, determined and ambitious men to be found in any country. He had conversed with men both in the towns and in the country. He had asked if there any grievances and they said there were none. Both men in the towns and farmers were satisfied with their position. Only two farmers had told him they had any grievance, and this was because there were no ladies in the place. In conclusion he referred to the elections of 1878, which were recently referred to as a political blizzard; he thought the election of 1882 must have been another blizzard; and hoped that a similar one would keep the Government in power for five years more after the next election.

Hon. Mr. McLelan was greeted with applause. He made a lengthy and eloquent speech, referring to the progress of the C. P. R. and the country in general.

Part 2 of 2: 155 kb

1884 –Sept. 14 - Report from R. L. Richardson on the British Association Tour of the Bell Farm

REPORT OF THE VISIT

OF THE

H.A.381
7-3-25

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

TO THE

CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

Description of the Trip to the Rocky Mountains, Addresses Presented, Report of Speeches Delivered, Doings in Winnipeg.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

BY R. L. RICHARDSON,
JOURNALIST.

Winnipeg, Manitoba:
McINTYRE BROS., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
1884.

75 kb

Eilegood read the hymns, and Sir Richard Temple read the lesson. The last hymn,

"Nearer my God to Thee,"

was sung lustily, all following the lead of an excellent choir, composed of Mounted Police, and assisted by a piano. At the close of the prayer, Rev. H. Jones, a member of the party, addressed a few practical remarks to the company. Service over, Colonel Irvine escorted the company about the barracks, calling attention to all the points of interest. The whistle of the engine warned us that we must make haste back, and in a few minutes we were on board the train again and whirling eastward.

THE BELL FARM.

Word had been sent on to Indian Head that the train would stop there in order to give the party an opportunity of viewing the Bell Farm. It was about one o'clock when the train reached the station. Here about fifteen spring wagons and carriages were in waiting to convey us to the village and about the farm. At the hotel a capital free lunch was spread for those who wished to partake of it. The main body proceeded to the residence of Major Bell, the popular manager of the farm. Here we were received in the spacious parlor of the comfortable homestead by Mrs. Bell, the winning hostess of the establishment. After some social chat, we were invited to the dining room, where a spread that would do credit to a palace was in waiting. Numerous delicacies of the choicest character filled the table, together with viands of a more substantial nature. The choicest wines and some excellent Bass' ale were also upon the table. It is needless to say that the latter was readily absorbed by the scientists, some of whom have been regretting the loss of their ale for the last few days. After lunch and kindest regards to the hostess, we visited the stables connected with the estabment, and after viewing the internal arrangements, we all re-entered the wagons again, and following the carriage of Major Bell, which contained besides the Major, Sir Richard Temple and Professors Fream and Sheldon, of agriculture, proceeded to drive about the colossal farm. The following figures are given in relation to the farm : It consists of 64,000 acres of probably as excellent land as can be found in the Territory. Of this, 7,000 acres are under cultivation, 5,000 growing wheat this ummer and other 2,000 being sown with oats. This amount of cultivated land makes an area ten miles square. Besides this, 5,000 more

120 kb

acres have been broken within the past year. When this is backset next summer and seeded down there will be 12,000 acres under crop. We drove along good roads between fields of wheat which extended in many instances farther than the eye could reach. Samples of grain were procured by all those interested in agriculture. We reached the station about four o'clock, and before embarking Sir Richard Temple publicly thanked Major Bell for his kind hospitality and attention shown the party during the visit to the farm. He called for three cheers for the Major and Mrs. Bell, which were given in a rousing manner. In a few minutes, after much handshaking, the party was again aboard and hurrying eastward at a rapid rate.

For the better information of those in England who like to ascertain all the facts they can in connection with such an enterprise as the Bell farm, the following article from the pen of a well-known English agriculturist who has been travelling over this country in the interests of the British Government for the past two summers is given. The gentleman is Professor Tanner of the Institue of Agriculture in England. Following is his article:

"I have now to report upon a colonization scheme in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence with stabling and shedding enough for the stock. When this has been accomplished these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at the valuation price, he paying for the same in five or ten annual instalments as may be arranged. In the meantime each man receives wages to the rate of £84 a year, and he has his house and one acre of garden rent free. This scheme is being carried out upon the Bell farm, in the Qu'Appelle Valley, in the Province of Assiniboia, under the direction of Major Bell, the originator of the system. The size of the farm is 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles. There is consequently a magnitude about the work which it is difficult to realize, but as we learn what has been done we become better prepared to accept the anticipations of the future.

In May of last year this tract of open prairie land was more than 200 miles from any railway station. The ploughs commenced breaking the turf on the 15th of June, and the buildings were started on the 13th of August. When I visited this farm at the commencement of September in this year, no less than forty homesteads had been built, over 7,000 acres were under the plough, and of this quantity 3,000 acres had produced excellent crops of wheat, yielding an estimated produce of

129 kb

90,000 bushels of very superior corn. A main line of railway was running through the centre of the farm, and a town of considerable importance has been built near the railway station. If in May, 1882, any one had said that these results would be secured within sixteen months from that date, very few would have accepted his remarks as very probable. Proceeding then from what has been accomplished, I may now draw attention to what has been arranged for, and for these details I have to thank Major Bell, who has kindly expressed a doubt whether they will be accepted, except by those who have visited the scene of operations and informed themselves as to its capabilities :

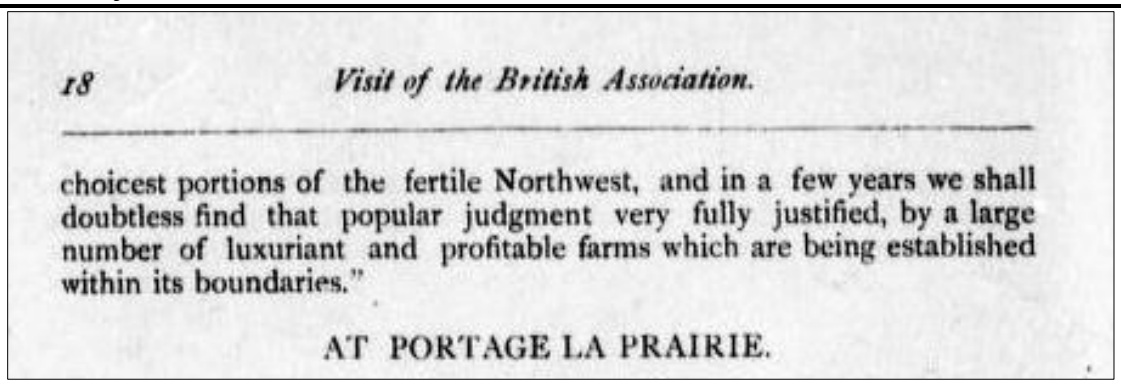
August.	Acres under corn.	Horses on the farm.	Estimate of corn produced. Bushels.
1883	3,000	103	90,000
1884	9,000	200	180,000
1885	18,000	300	360,000
1886	25,000	350	500,000

These figures are undoubtedly astounding, but they are entitled to the highest respect. To watch twenty-one of Deerings' self-binding reapers, each drawn by three horses, and working away at a 700 acre field of wheat, is a sight which will not be soon forgotten by those who witnessed it this harvest, but it certainly prepares the mind for dealing with large results. Nor was it less surprising to learn how very simple the preparation of the land had been for producing such a crop. The 3,000 acres of turf had been simply ploughed over about three inches deep, in the previous summer, and it had remained untouched until the spring, when the ground was seeded by twenty broad-cast sowing machines, each drawn by one horse, followed forty-six sets of spring-tooth harrows, each drawn by two horses. The costs of cultivation were therefore excessively moderate. The quality of the wheat, however, is remarkably good, for it is ranked in the highest grade for the production of the much prized Minneapolis flour. The soil of this farm is a rich, deep, black loam, resting on a clay sub-soil. It is not Major Bell's intention to grow wheat continuously, but he proposes to give the land a summer fallow every third year, and thus, whilst the land will be kept clean, it will probably produce as much wheat as if it had been under corn year after year. Under this system he is able to increase the size of each farm from the usual quantity of 160 acres (one-fourth of a square mile) to 213 acres.

Well may Canada be proud of having the largest farm in the world, but she may be much more gratified to know that this farm is also remarkable for producing an enormous yield of wheat, at the smallest known cost, and of the highest quality; at the same time as a colonization scheme it will be very largely profitable to her capitalists, and will settle 300 farms under conditions which will secure their future success. The Qu'Appelle valley has been generally recognized as one of the

125 kb

Summer fallow



18 *Visit of the British Association.*

choicest portions of the fertile Northwest, and in a few years we shall doubtless find that popular judgment very fully justified, by a large number of luxuriant and profitable farms which are being established within its boundaries."

AT PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

1884 – Sept. 14 – Report from Prof. William Boyd Dawkins – published April 20, 1885

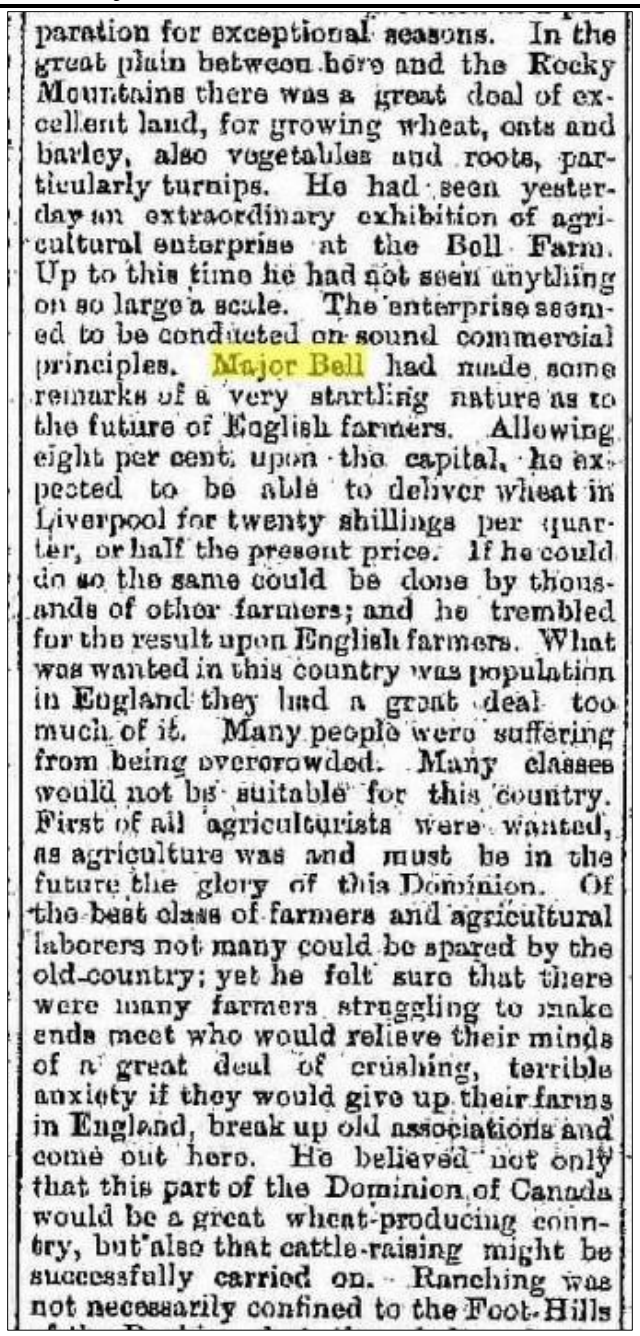
> ". . . . between the Rocky Mountains and the region of Winnipeg. That region is remarkably well fitted for growing wheat, and the samples of wheat are magnificent. The scale on which wheat growing is beginning to be carried on may be gathered from the case of the Bell Farm, near Regina. Here I saw 8,000 acres of land under wheat, and Major Bell was preparing this year (1884) for 11,000 acres. The only thing necessary to convert the prairie into a wheat-producing arable district is to plough up the surface of the soil and put in the wheat. For how long the land will stand this without becoming exhausted is an open question; but quite long enough, in my opinion, to ruin the wheat growers in Britain. In this over-stocked country of ours, where the rents are high and the taxes heavy, it is absolutely impossible for the British farmer, farming on a small scale and after the fashion of his ancestors, to compete successfully with the great wheat-growing country of the North-west. . . . . "

1884 – Sept. 15 *Winnipeg Daily Sun* p. 5 – report on Horse Thieves

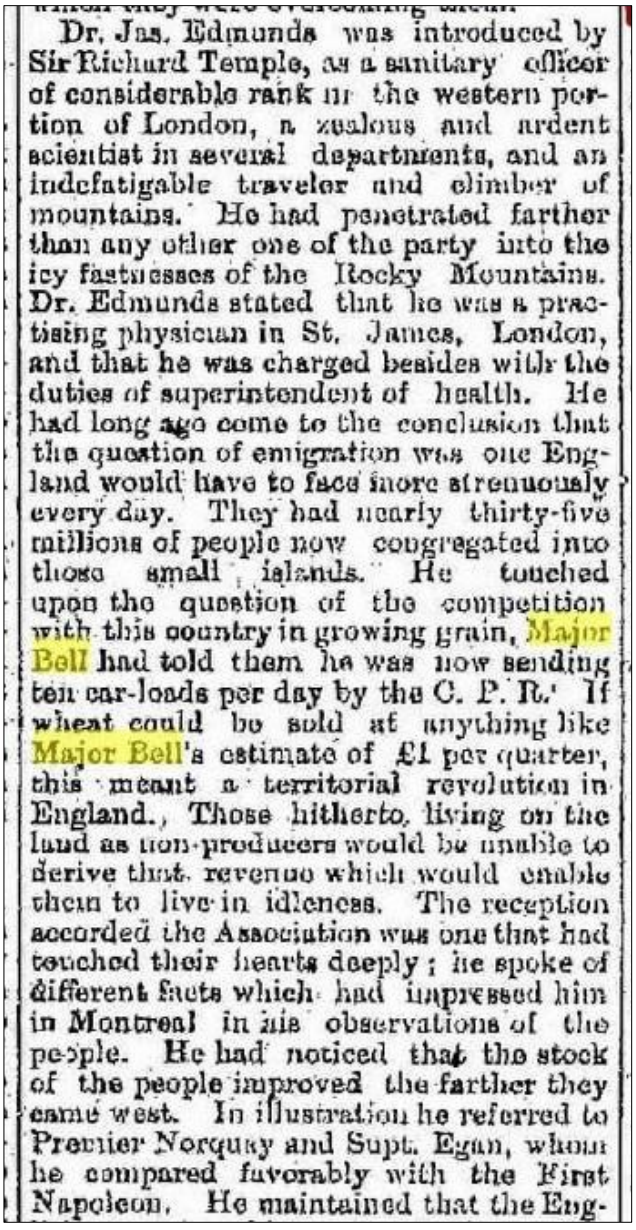
> "**HORSE THIEVES –** *RUN SIXTEEN HORSES OFF THE BELL FARM.* The thieves From Across the Line – Mounted Police in Pursuit. (Special to the Winnipeg Daily Sun.) Indian Head, Sept. 15 – Sixteen horsed were stolen from the Bell farm stables last night between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The thieves have gone direct south. Major Bell, with a posee are after them. Indians trailing.
>
> The mounted police have also gone south after them."

1884 -Sept. 16 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – conclusion to British Association visit to the West

"OUR VISITORS" – British Association – long report with a few casual references to the Bell Farm – two relevant extracts are provided below:



paration for exceptional seasons. In the great plain between here and the Rocky Mountains there was a great deal of excellent land, for growing wheat, oats and barley, also vegetables and roots, particularly turnips. He had seen yesterday an extraordinary exhibition of agricultural enterprise at the Bell Farm. Up to this time he had not seen anything on so large a scale. The enterprise seemed to be conducted on sound commercial principles. Major Bell had made some remarks of a very startling nature as to the future of English farmers. Allowing eight per cent. upon the capital, he expected to be able to deliver wheat in Liverpool for twenty shillings per quarter, or half the present price. If he could do so the same could be done by thousands of other farmers; and he trembled for the result upon English farmers. What was wanted in this country was population in England they had a great deal too much of it. Many people were suffering from being overcrowded. Many classes would not be suitable for this country. First of all agriculturists were wanted, as agriculture was and must be in the future the glory of this Dominion. Of the best class of farmers and agricultural laborers not many could be spared by the old-country; yet he felt sure that there were many farmers struggling to make ends meet who would relieve their minds of a great deal of crushing, terrible anxiety if they would give up their farms in England, break up old associations and come out here. He believed not only that this part of the Dominion of Canada would be a great wheat-producing country, but also that cattle-raising might be successfully carried on. Ranching was not necessarily confined to the Foot-Hills



Dr. Jas. Edmunds was introduced by Sir Richard Temple, as a sanitary officer of considerable rank in the western portion of London, a zealous and ardent scientist in several departments, and an indefatigable traveler and climber of mountains. He had penetrated farther than any other one of the party into the icy fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains. Dr. Edmunds stated that he was a practising physician in St. James, London, and that he was charged besides with the duties of superintendent of health. He had long ago come to the conclusion that the question of emigration was one England would have to face more strenuously every day. They had nearly thirty-five millions of people now congregated into those small islands. He touched upon the question of the competition with this country in growing grain, Major Bell had told them he was now sending ten car-loads per day by the C. P. R.' If wheat could be sold at anything like Major Bell's estimate of £1 per quarter, this meant a territorial revolution in England. Those hitherto living on the land as non-producers would be unable to derive that revenue which would enable them to live in idleness. The reception accorded the Association was one that had touched their hearts deeply; he spoke of different facts which had impressed him in Montreal in his observations of the people. He had noticed that the stock of the people improved the farther they came west. In illustration he referred to Premier Norquay and Supt. Egan, whom he compared favorably with the First Napoleon. He maintained that the Eng-

Part 1 - Sheldon 192 kb Part 2 – Edmonds 184 kb

1884 – Sept. 17 - *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Search for Horse Thieves . . . . and visit of Prof. Gilbert

"**INDIAN HEAD: The Horse Thieves.** Indian Head. N.W.T., Sept 16, - Major Bell and his men returned this afternoon from an unsuccessful hunt after the horse thieves. They went to the boundary where they lost the trail. It is supposed the thieves are in hiding among the bluffs, 25 miles south. A reward of five hundred dollars is offered for their capture and return. The Mounted Police are still in pursuit.

Scientific Visitor. Prof. Gilbert, a celebrated English soil analyst, is visiting the Bell Farm."

1884 – Sept. 23 – Peter O'Leary's visit to the Bell Farm – and his Dec. 31 brief comment in his report to the Minister of Agriculture:

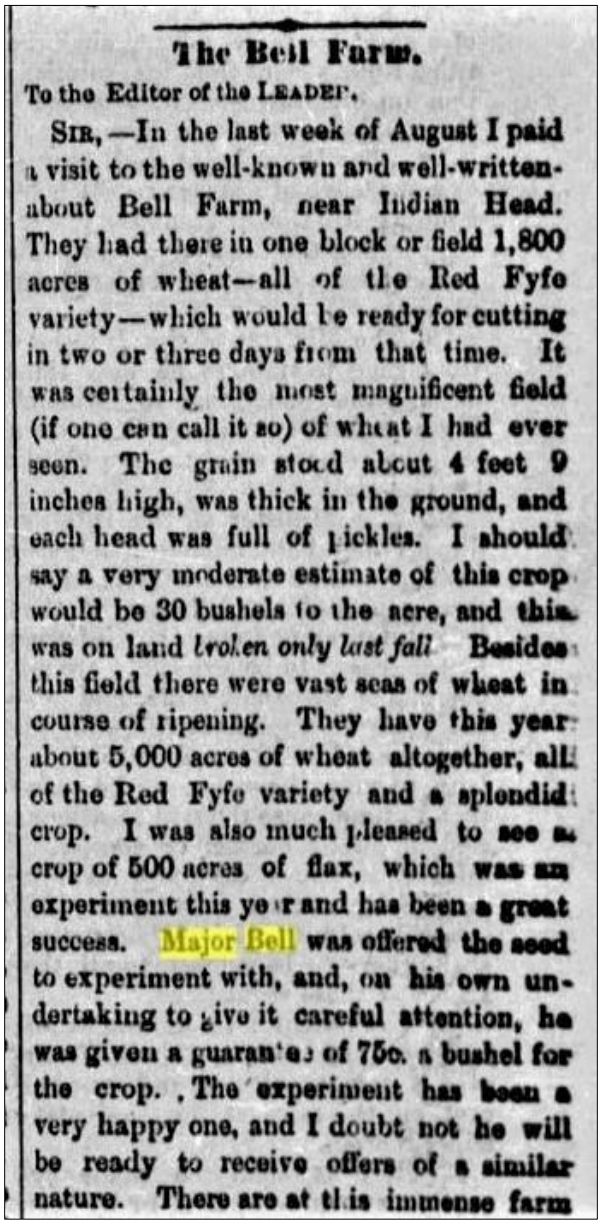
"On the Bell Farm, there were four hundred acres of flax, but how it turned out I do not know. As yet the fibre has not been made any use of."

and later. . . .

"On the Bell Farm I saw forty-two reapers and binders at work on seven thousand acres of wheat, some of which had been slightly touched by the frost, but as the grain was almost ripe the injury was not very severe."

(Source: 1885 sessional paper #8, report #21, p. 129)

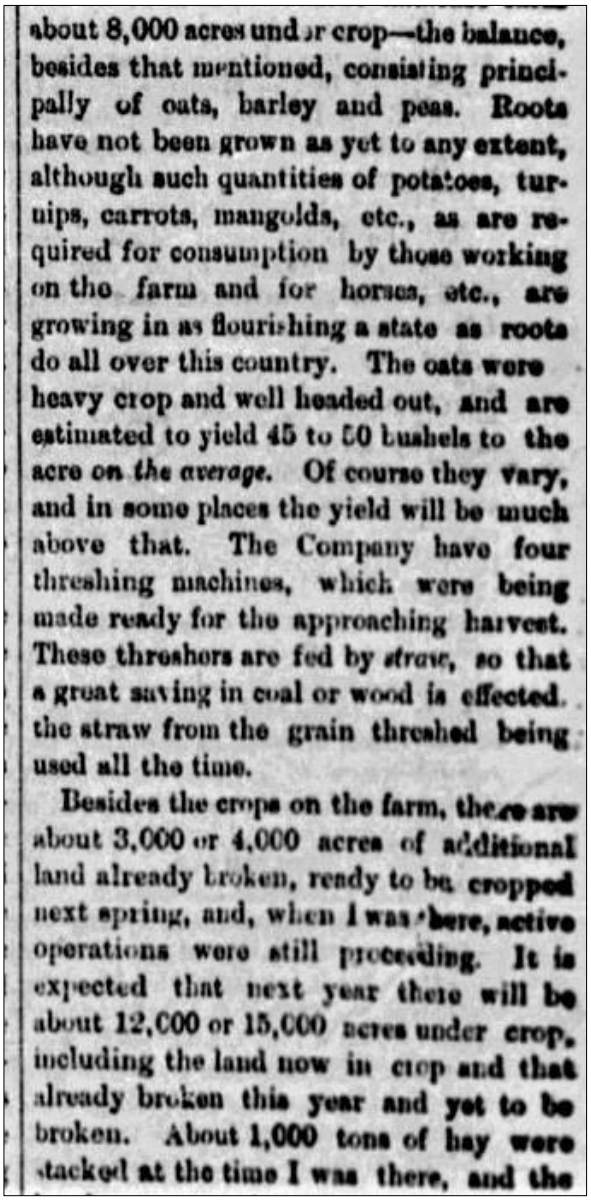
1884 – Sept. 25 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Letter describes crops on the Bell Farm



The Bell Farm.

To the Editor of the LEADER.

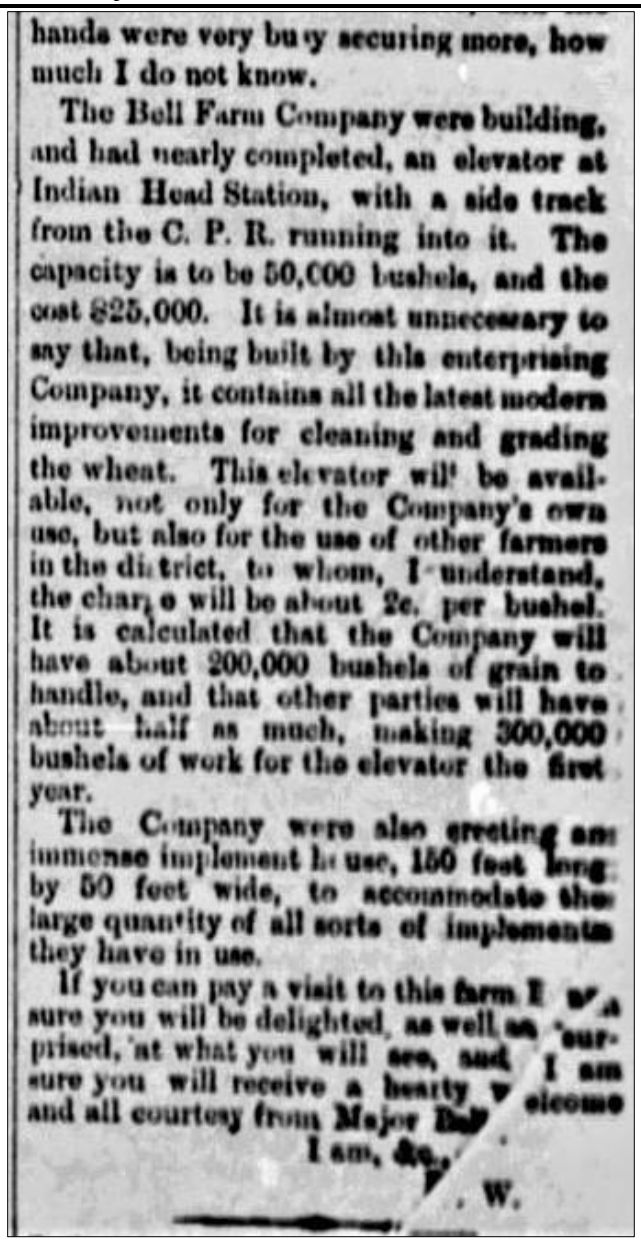
SIR,—In the last week of August I paid a visit to the well-known and well-written-about Bell Farm, near Indian Head. They had there in one block or field 1,800 acres of wheat—all of the Red Fyfe variety—which would be ready for cutting in two or three days from that time. It was certainly the most magnificent field (if one can call it so) of wheat I had ever seen. The grain stood about 4 feet 9 inches high, was thick in the ground, and each head was full of pickles. I should say a very moderate estimate of this crop would be 30 bushels to the acre, and this was on land *broken only last fall*. Besides this field there were vast seas of wheat in course of ripening. They have this year about 5,000 acres of wheat altogether, all of the Red Fyfe variety and a splendid crop. I was also much pleased to see a crop of 500 acres of flax, which was an experiment this year and has been a great success. Major Bell was offered the seed to experiment with, and, on his own undertaking to give it careful attention, he was given a guarantee of 75c. a bushel for the crop. The experiment has been a very happy one, and I doubt not he will be ready to receive offers of a similar nature. There are at this immense farm



about 8,000 acres under crop—the balance, besides that mentioned, consisting principally of oats, barley and peas. Roots have not been grown as yet to any extent, although such quantities of potatoes, turnips, carrots, mangolds, etc., as are required for consumption by those working on the farm and for horses, etc., are growing in as flourishing a state as roots do all over this country. The oats were heavy crop and well headed out, and are estimated to yield 45 to 50 bushels to the acre on *the average*. Of course they vary, and in some places the yield will be much above that. The Company have four threshing machines, which were being made ready for the approaching harvest. These threshers are fed by *straw*, so that a great saving in coal or wood is effected, the straw from the grain threshed being used all the time.

Besides the crops on the farm, there are about 3,000 or 4,000 acres of additional land already broken, ready to be cropped next spring, and, when I was there, active operations were still proceeding. It is expected that next year there will be about 12,000 or 15,000 acres under crop, including the land now in crop and that already broken this year and yet to be broken. About 1,000 tons of hay were stacked at the time I was there, and the

Part 1 of 3: 149 kb Part 2 of 3: 153 kb



hands were very busy securing more, how much I do not know.

The Bell Farm Company were building, and had nearly completed, an elevator at Indian Head Station, with a side track from the C. P. R. running into it. The capacity is to be 50,000 bushels, and the cost $25,000. It is almost unnecessary to say that, being built by this enterprising Company, it contains all the latest modern improvements for cleaning and grading the wheat. This elevator will be available, not only for the Company's own use, but also for the use of other farmers in the district, to whom, I understand, the charge will be about 2c. per bushel. It is calculated that the Company will have about 200,000 bushels of grain to handle, and that other parties will have about half as much, making 300,000 bushels of work for the elevator the first year.

The Company were also erecting an immense implement house, 150 feet long by 50 feet wide, to accommodate the large quantity of all sorts of implements they have in use.

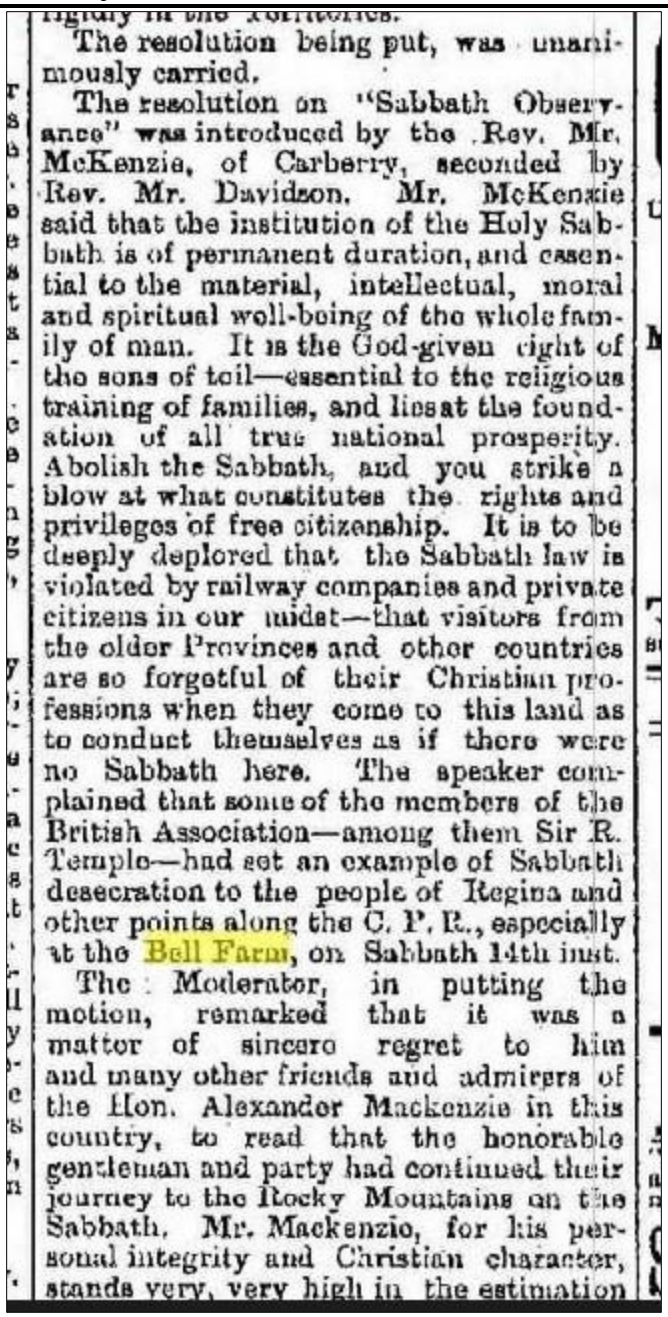
If you can pay a visit to this farm I am sure you will be delighted, as well as surprised, at what you will see, and I am sure you will receive a hearty welcome and all courtesy from Major Bell.

I am, &c.,

W.

Part 3 of 3: 117 kb

1884 – Sept. 26 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Presbyterians complain about Sabbath observance by British Association while in the North-West , especially on the Bell Farm during their Sept. 14th visit.



The resolution being put, was unanimously carried.

The resolution on "Sabbath Observance" was introduced by the Rev. Mr. McKenzie, of Carberry, seconded by Rev. Mr. Davidson. Mr. McKenzie said that the institution of the Holy Sabbath is of permanent duration, and essential to the material, intellectual, moral and spiritual well-being of the whole family of man. It is the God-given right of the sons of toil—essential to the religious training of families, and lies at the foundation of all true national prosperity. Abolish the Sabbath, and you strike a blow at what constitutes the rights and privileges of free citizenship. It is to be deeply deplored that the Sabbath law is violated by railway companies and private citizens in our midst—that visitors from the older Provinces and other countries are so forgetful of their Christian professions when they come to this land as to conduct themselves as if there were no Sabbath here. The speaker complained that some of the members of the British Association—among them Sir R. Temple—had set an example of Sabbath desecration to the people of Regina and other points along the C. P. R., especially at the Bell Farm, on Sabbath 14th inst.

The Moderator, in putting the motion, remarked that it was a matter of sincere regret to him and many other friends and admirers of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie in this country, to read that the honorable gentleman and party had continued their journey to the Rocky Mountains on the Sabbath. Mr. Mackenzie, for his personal integrity and Christian character, stands very, very high in the estimation

1884 – Sept. 29 – *New York Daily Graphic*, p. 663 – British Association tour; mention of Bell Farm

". . . . Among other places visited during the excursion was the celebrated Bell farm, which is one of the largest in the world, having an area of about 64,000 acres, of which 7,000 acres are under crop this year, and next year Major Bell expects to have about 12,000 acres under cultivation. The estimated yield for the present year is 128,000 bushels of wheat and 85,000 bushels of oats, besides miscellaneous cereals and roots. . . . . ."

1884 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
86	Sept. 3, 1884	L. Lebret, O.M.I.	R.C. Mission, Qu'Appelle ←	Saskatchewan – early Catholic missionary. He arrived at the mission in 1884, and is responsible for having the name of the mission church changed to Sacre Coeur de Jesus. While he

				wanted to have the postal address given the same name, it was given his name instead
87	Sept. 3, 1884	J. Hugonard	Industrial School, Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – Roman Catholic priest at the Indian Residential School at Lebret from 1880-1917
88		*…???..* Jarvis	Cornwall, Ontario	
89		Salter M. Jarvis	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – one of the original investors in the Bell Farm Col. Salter M. Jarvis (Queen's Own Rifles) was the Public Notary for the NWT and the son of George Stephen Jarvis, whose first wife was Julia Sherwood, was Major Bell's aunt. ENTRY 90 is his wife Jennie Ellen (nee Brooke)
90		Mrs. Salter M. Jarvis	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan - Major Bell's aunt.
91		*…???……*	Winnipeg	Manitoba – similar to # 73
92		John Lister-Kaye	England	Established a large ranching operation in SW Saskatchewan and SE Alberta The Nov. 20, 1885: Qu'Appelle Progress mentions Sir John Lister Key of Key farm – 600 to 700 acres. I think it was around Balgonie.
93		Thomas Nelson	England	
94		Edmund Amos Struthers	Winnipeg	Manitoba Edmund Amos Struthers (1855-1935) was a Manitoba farmer, investor in the Selkirk Eastern and Western Railway Company, a railway land inspector, the Manager of Barnardo's Home - a colonization programme for British youth, and a member of the Board of Health for the District of Keewatin.
95		G.F. Dawson	*Ston….*, England	Possibly George M. Dawson, the federal government surveyor ? verify signature
96	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
97	Sept. 14, 1884	Richard Temple	Worcestershire, England	Sir Richard Temple -
98	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
99	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
100	x	Malcolm Macadam	Edinburgh	Scotland
101	x	John Prince Sheldon	Sheen, Ashbourne, England	Professor Sheldon - Ref: Staffordshire Past-Track http://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk/
102		Rct Robinson	London	England

103	x	W. Fream	Downton Mills	Professor W. Fream – part of group that visited the Bell Farm on Sept. 14, 1884. – see Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England report – 4 Dec 2010 e-mail from Michelle Cabana, from Downton, Salisbury, England – p.217 -308: - p. 227-Bell pays ½ penny for gopher tails; p. 255 – Bell Farm tillage practices; p.275 – ½ of Bell Farm machinery from USA; p 276- 288 detail of Bell Farm report; p.292 Bell Farm weather;
104		……..??……..	……..*London ?.*	
105		John Leach	*Bottin,* Lancashire	England
106		C.C. Leach	*Bellington …..* England	
107		J. Ellegood	Montreal	Quebec: Canon James Ellegood Canon of Christ Church Cathedral and rector of St. James the Apostle Church
108		Hugo … Muller	Vienna, Austria	
109		…???…*bury*	London	England
110		John McIntyre	*…ham,* England	
111		Isaac Ashe	Dublin, Ireland	
112		*???… Horenden*	West *Dubwich,* London	England
113		W. ???……	Bolton, Emgland	
114		W.N. Hockwell	14 Paternoster …, London (for British Press)	England
115		William Favill Tuke	*Saffron* Waldon, England	William Favill Tuke was the chairman of the Barclays Bank.
116		Archie McNee , “Free Press”	Winnipeg, Manitoba	
117		R.L. Richardson “Sun”	Winnipeg, Manitoba	A reporter accompanying the British Association contingent
118		Wm. Topley	H.M. Geological Survey, England	
119		W. Whitaker	Geological Survey of England	Member of the British Association tour

120		James Edmonds, M.D.	..... *Street*, London	England
121		Miss. L. M. Edmonds		
122		Dr. G. *Thorvura*	Toronto	Ontario
123		Miss G. *Thorvura*	Toronto	Ontario
124		Peter *Royle,* M.D *.I.I.*	.....	
125		William Boyd Dawkins	Woodhurst, Fallowfield, Manchester	Member of the British Association tour; Professor at Owen's College
126		Henry…*Marsh*…		
127		George Gilbert Ramsay	The University, Glasgow	Scotland; Professor of Humanity
128		Gertrude S. Ramsay	The University, Glasgow	Scotland
129	Sept. 16, 1884	Joseph Henry Gilbert (*Magdalen* College, Oxford)	& Rothamsted, St. Albans	England: Sir Joseph Henry Gilbert (1 August 1817 - 23 December 1901) Chemical Section of the British Association .Collaborated on creating the Rothamsted Experimental Station (St. Albans) one of the oldest agricultural research institutions in the world. Knighted in 1893.
130		Maria Gilbert	England	
131		Rosse	*Bira* Castle, *Parsonston*, Ireland	Lawrence Parsons, Earl of Rosse
132	Sept. 19, 1884	Henry Fisher	Regina	Saskatchewan
133		Geo. B. Booth	Regina	Saskatchewan
134	Sept. 22, 1884	The Hon. Mrs. Joyce	St. John's… Winchester, England	
135	"	The Rev. A.G. Joyce	Winchester	England
136		Arch. McDonald	H.B. Ft. Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan – Chief Factor of Fort Qu'Appelle (1882-1911) and the last Chief Factor in the Hudson's Bay Company system

137	Sept. 23, 1884	G.B. Longstaff	London, Morthoe, England	An entomologist, George Blundell Longstaff was a member of the British Association tour to the Bell Farm
138	"	Dr. Barnardo	London, England	Thomas Barnardo - Founder of the Barnardo Homes for Boys
139	"	A. Bowen	Peterboro, Ontario	
140	"	James H. Matheson	120 Queens Gate, London, England	James Horace Matheson: James looks to have been a listless bachelor, trying his hand at merchant banking, accounting and military service. He did not marry and died just 6 years after visiting the Bell Farm. (ref: Bill Pinfold)
141		Peter O'Leary	Park Street, Southway, London, England	
142	Sept. 27, 1884	William Lewis Boyle	Winnipeg	Manitoba – president of the Bell Farm in 1885. – Ref; Ed Morgan History, p. 54
143	"	Ralph T. Rokeby	Winnipeg	Manitoba: Ralph Thomas Rokeby

1884 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
345	B 05	DC 46/84	J.H. Benson Vs. H.J. Ellwood	1883-1884	Not sure if this Ellwood is related to Bell's wife Katherine Elwood; James H. Benson a Regina Town Councillor
453	E 06	DC 177/84	A.J. Osment Vs. E. Shaw	1884	May be Osment working on his own, rather than for Bell – same for other Osment entries below
454	E 06	DC 178/84	A.J. Osment Vs. E. Shaw	1884	
460	F 06	DC 185/85	A.J. Osment Vs. W. Larr	1884	
461	G 06	DC 186/84	A.J. Osment Vs. W. Larr	1883-1884	

551	F 07	DC 293/84	H.J. Ellwood Vs. The Sask. Land & Homestead Co.	1884	Not sure if this Ellwood is related to Bell's wife Katherine Elwood
552	G 07	DC 294/84	E.M. Ellwood Vs. The Sask. Land & Homestead Co.	1884	Not sure if this Ellwood is related to Bell's wife Katherine Elwood
574	J 07	DC 320/84	S.M. Jarvis Vs. D. Watson	1881-1884	Salter Jarvis one of the QVFC directors

1884 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
144	Oct. 2, 1884	Norman …???.....	Dundee, Scotland	
145		.....	Winnipeg	Manitoba
146	Oct. 3, 1884	*Colonel ???……*	England	
147		J. Evans "Herald" Office	Carnarvon, North Wales	
148	Oct. 4, 1884	R.H. Jones	Liverpool, England	
149		Alfred W. Everest	Christ Church, Oxford, England	
150		*???... R. …nstle*	Ottawa	Ontario
151		A.J. Baker	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
152		Alan Smith, Dominion Immigration Agent	Hamilton, Ontario	
153		Francis ..... Osler	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
154		Wm. Stephen	Montreal	Quebec
155		*W.*D. Taylor	Winnipeg	Manitoba
156		M. Crawford	Brockville	Ontario – possibly a relation to Robert Crawford, one of the original Bell Farm investors

157		Rev. Alexander Urquhart	Regina	Saskatchewan Reverend Urquhart was a Presbyterian minister active in missionary work in the Territories
158		James Walter Gregory	Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan
159		Daniel Boisevain	Amsterdam	Netherlands

1884 – Oct 1 – *Fort Benton River Press* – Horses Theft update

> "Winnipeg, September 17.- The horse thieves who stole sixteen animals from the Bell Farm have so far escaped. Major Bell returned last night, and started out this morning with Pie-a-Pot and others. It is supposed the thieves are hiding 25 miles south of the boundary. A reward of $500 is offered for their capture."
>
> (FRANK - The Oct. 1st report also reaffirms Major Bell's close ties to the First Nation peoples, as Piapot is helping track down the horse thieves, likely in no small part due to his tracking skills.)

1884 – Oct. 2 – *Brandon Mail* p. 6 – Some of the stolen horses recovered

> "**PROVINCIAL –** Three of the horses stolen from the Bell Farm have been recovered. None of the thieves have been captured."

1884 – Oct. 2 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Stewart's new Bell Farm Grain Elevator Roof Damaged by Strong Winds

> "An Indian Head despatch of yesterday says: There has been a heavy south-east wind all day, blowing over out-houses, and partly unroofing the new elevator. It has been raining since 4 p.m., doing much damage to stacked grain, and retarding threshing and fall plowing."

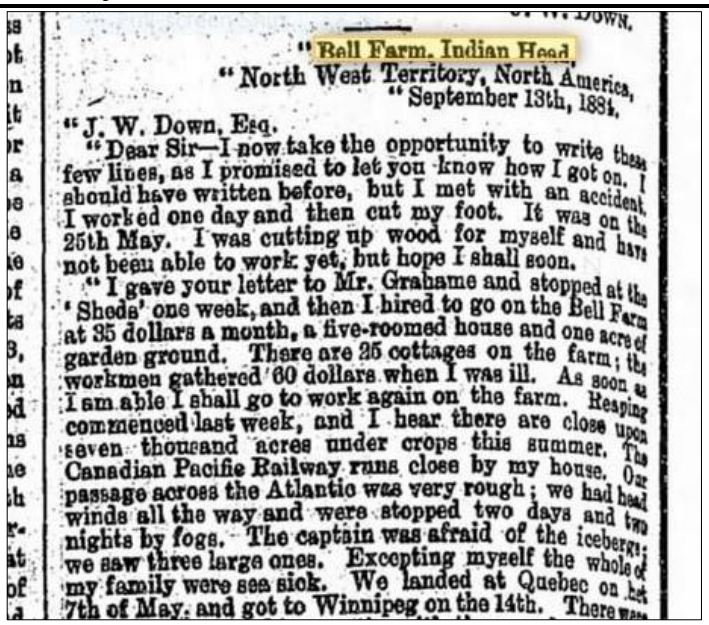
1884 – Oct. 3 – *Fort McLeod Gazette,* p. 1 – Horses stolen from Bell Farm

> "**REGINA – From the *Leader* – July 31th -** Sixteen horses have been stolen from the Bell Farm – a wire fence had to be cut before they could be taken away – owing to the recent wet weather the tracks of the thieves are visible. Major Bell and a posse of men with Indians are in pursuit assisted by citizens. If they catch the thieves they are determined to make an example of them."

1884 – Oct. 4 – *Saskatchewan Herald*, Battleford , p. Bell Farm crop report

> "**HARVEST HOME** – The Bell Farming Company have begun threshing wheat, and claim a yield of thirty-five bushels on the acre so far."

1884 – Oct. 4 – *Bristol Mercury and Daily Post*, p. 6 – Letter from George Morgan to J.W. Down about Bell Farm – accident day after he started work in May.



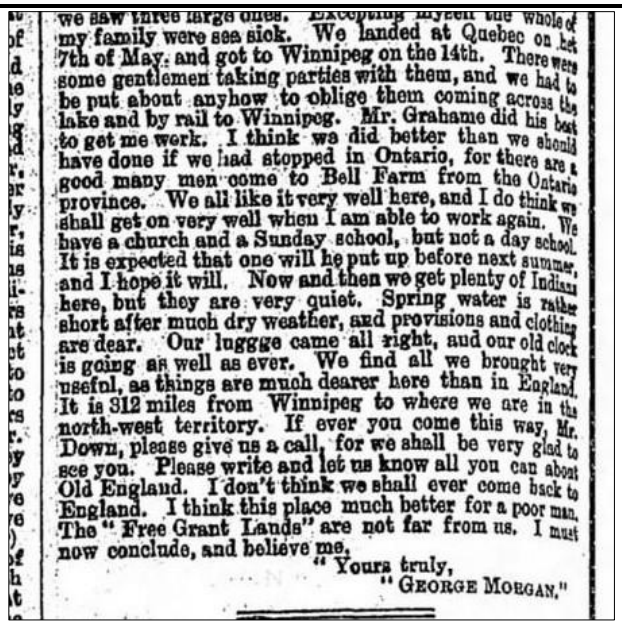
"Bell Farm, Indian Head,
"North West Territory, North America,
"September 13th, 1884.

"J. W. Down, Esq.

"Dear Sir—I now take the opportunity to write these few lines, as I promised to let you know how I got on. I should have written before, but I met with an accident. I worked one day and then cut my foot. It was on the 25th May. I was cutting up wood for myself and have not been able to work yet, but hope I shall soon.

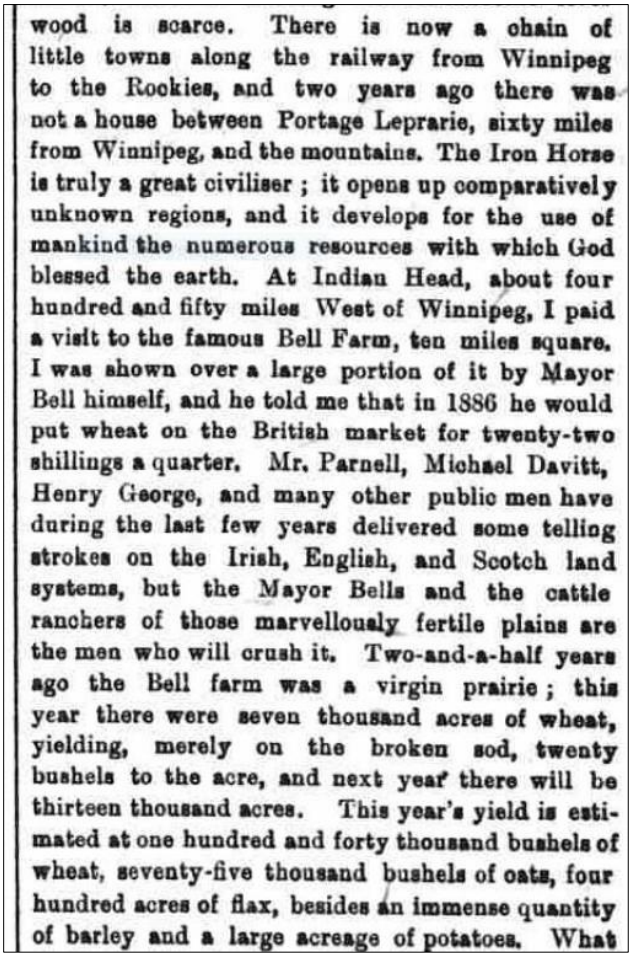
"I gave your letter to Mr. Grahame and stopped at the 'Sheds' one week, and then I hired to go on the Bell Farm at 35 dollars a month, a five-roomed house and one acre of garden ground. There are 25 cottages on the farm; the workmen gathered 60 dollars when I was ill. As soon as I am able I shall go to work again on the farm. Reaping commenced last week, and I hear there are close upon seven thousand acres under crops this summer. The Canadian Pacific Railway runs close by my house. Our passage across the Atlantic was very rough; we had head winds all the way and were stopped two days and two nights by fogs. The captain was afraid of the icebergs; we saw three large ones. Excepting myself the whole of my family were sea sick. We landed at Quebec on the 7th of May, and got to Winnipeg on the 14th. There were some gentlemen taking parties with them, and we had to be put about anyhow to oblige them coming across the lake and by rail to Winnipeg. Mr. Grahame did his best to get me work. I think we did better than we should have done if we had stopped in Ontario, for there are a good many men come to Bell Farm from the Ontario province. We all like it very well here, and I do think we shall get on very well when I am able to work again. We have a church and a Sunday school, but not a day school. It is expected that one will be put up before next summer, and I hope it will. Now and then we get plenty of Indians here, but they are very quiet. Spring water is rather short after much dry weather, and provisions and clothing are dear. Our luggge came all right, and our old clock is going as well as ever. We find all we brought very useful, as things are much dearer here than in England. It is 312 miles from Winnipeg to where we are in the north-west territory. If ever you come this way, Mr. Down, please give us a call, for we shall be very glad to see you. Please write and let us know all you can about Old England. I don't think we shall ever come back to England. I think this place much better for a poor man. The "Free Grant Lands" are not far from us. I must now conclude, and believe me,

"Yours truly,
"GEORGE MORGAN."

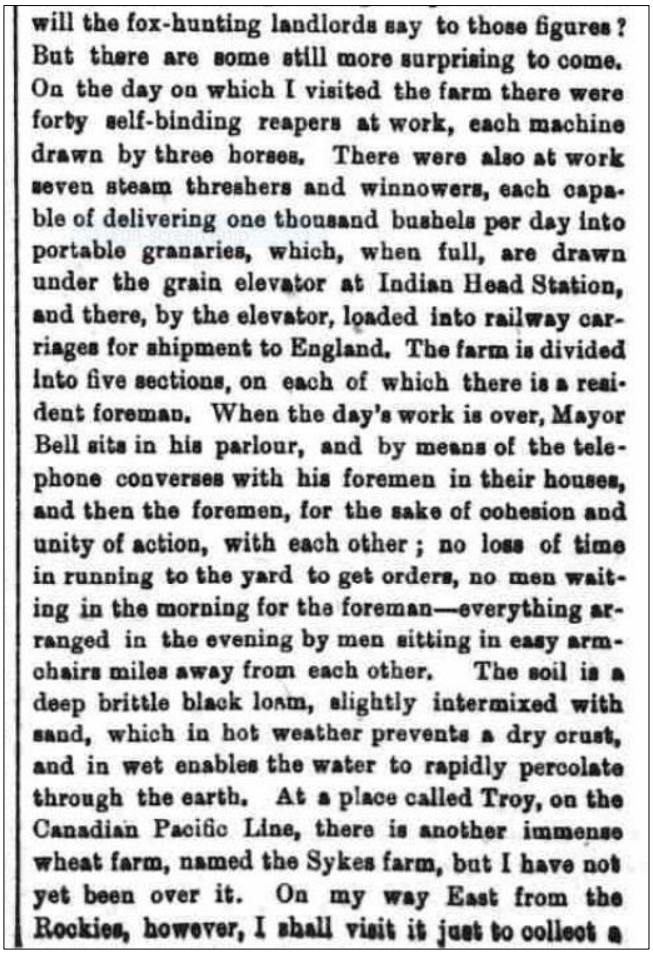


Part 1 of 2: 148 Part 2 of 2: 166 kb

1884 – Oct. 5 – *Dublin Nation*, p. 11-12 – Report from by Peter O'Leary on Sept. 23, 1884 visit to the Bell Farm and detail on use of portable grain bins from field to elevator

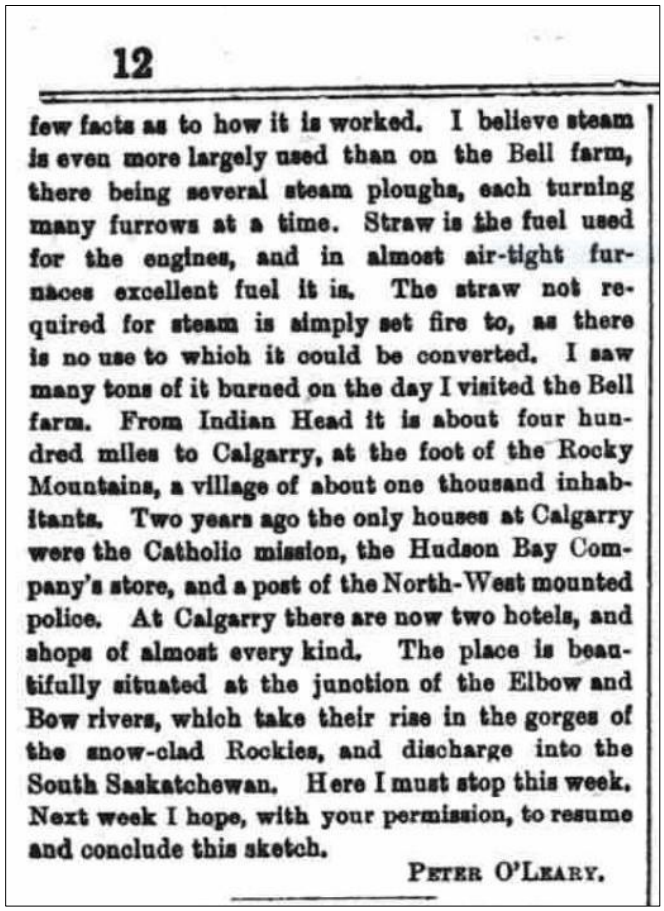


wood is scarce. There is now a chain of little towns along the railway from Winnipeg to the Rockies, and two years ago there was not a house between Portage Leprarie, sixty miles from Winnipeg, and the mountains. The Iron Horse is truly a great civiliser; it opens up comparatively unknown regions, and it develops for the use of mankind the numerous resources with which God blessed the earth. At Indian Head, about four hundred and fifty miles West of Winnipeg, I paid a visit to the famous Bell Farm, ten miles square. I was shown over a large portion of it by Mayor Bell himself, and he told me that in 1886 he would put wheat on the British market for twenty-two shillings a quarter. Mr. Parnell, Michael Davitt, Henry George, and many other public men have during the last few years delivered some telling strokes on the Irish, English, and Scotch land systems, but the Mayor Bells and the cattle ranchers of those marvellously fertile plains are the men who will crush it. Two-and-a-half years ago the Bell farm was a virgin prairie; this year there were seven thousand acres of wheat, yielding, merely on the broken sod, twenty bushels to the acre, and next year there will be thirteen thousand acres. This year's yield is estimated at one hundred and forty thousand bushels of wheat, seventy-five thousand bushels of oats, four hundred acres of flax, besides an immense quantity of barley and a large acreage of potatoes. What



will the fox-hunting landlords say to those figures? But there are some still more surprising to come. On the day on which I visited the farm there were forty self-binding reapers at work, each machine drawn by three horses. There were also at work seven steam threshers and winnowers, each capable of delivering one thousand bushels per day into portable granaries, which, when full, are drawn under the grain elevator at Indian Head Station, and there, by the elevator, loaded into railway carriages for shipment to England. The farm is divided into five sections, on each of which there is a resident foreman. When the day's work is over, Mayor Bell sits in his parlour, and by means of the telephone converses with his foremen in their houses, and then the foremen, for the sake of cohesion and unity of action, with each other; no loss of time in running to the yard to get orders, no men waiting in the morning for the foreman—everything arranged in the evening by men sitting in easy arm-chairs miles away from each other. The soil is a deep brittle black loam, slightly intermixed with sand, which in hot weather prevents a dry crust, and in wet enables the water to rapidly percolate through the earth. At a place called Troy, on the Canadian Pacific Line, there is another immense wheat farm, named the Sykes farm, but I have not yet been over it. On my way East from the Rockies, however, I shall visit it just to collect a

Part 1 of 3: (196 kb) Part 2 of 3: (189 KB)



12

few facts as to how it is worked. I believe steam is even more largely used than on the Bell farm, there being several steam ploughs, each turning many furrows at a time. Straw is the fuel used for the engines, and in almost air-tight furnaces excellent fuel it is. The straw not required for steam is simply set fire to, as there is no use to which it could be converted. I saw many tons of it burned on the day I visited the Bell farm. From Indian Head it is about four hundred miles to Calgarry, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, a village of about one thousand inhabitants. Two years ago the only houses at Calgarry were the Catholic mission, the Hudson Bay Company's store, and a post of the North-West mounted police. At Calgarry there are now two hotels, and shops of almost every kind. The place is beautifully situated at the junction of the Elbow and Bow rivers, which take their rise in the gorges of the snow-clad Rockies, and discharge into the South Saskatchewan. Here I must stop this week. Next week I hope, with your permission, to resume and conclude this sketch.

PETER O'LEARY.

Part 3 of 3: (158 KB) - burning unused straw

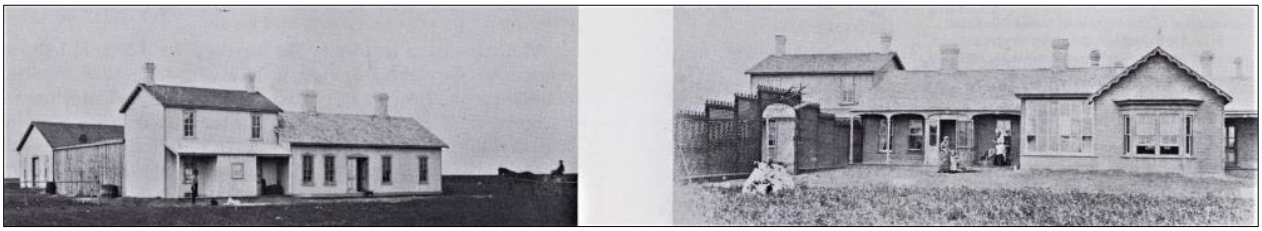
1884 – Oct. 6 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Bell Farm horse thieves caught in USA

> " **THE GOSSIP OF THE CITY -** The Bell Farm people have found all their horses and the thieves. Major Bell telegraphed Mr. Eberts to this effect yesterday. The thieves are now on the way to Miles City for trial."

1884 – Oct . 9– *Qu'Appelle Vidette* p. __ - Bell Farm Grain Elevator completed

1884 – Oct. 9 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* p. __

Indian Head: "Mrs. Major Bell was guest of Gov Dewdney during the Regina Agricultural Exhibition."

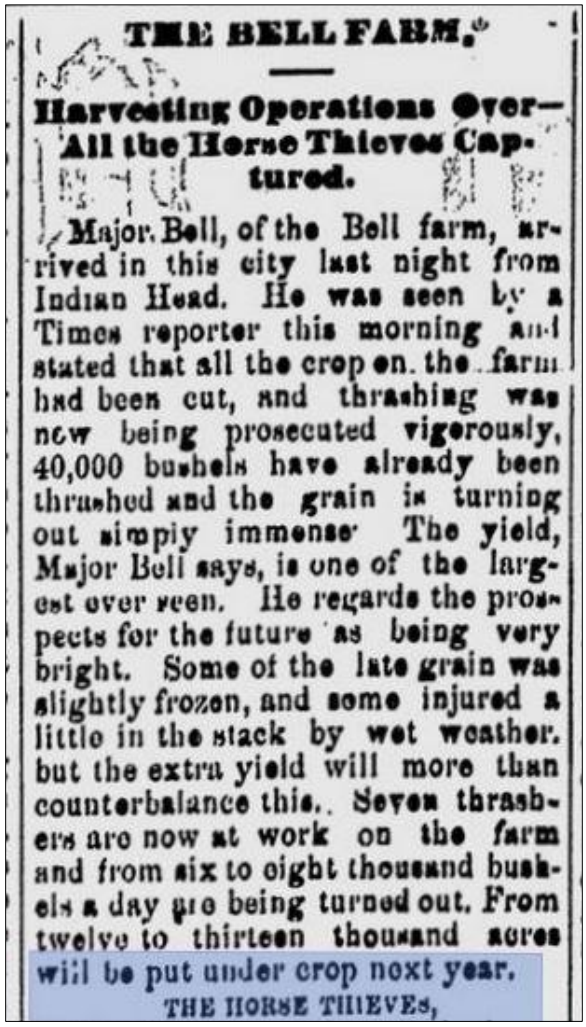


Gov. *House, Regina - 1883* *and* *with fence and addition on right, 1887* (140 kb)

"Bell farm elevator, now finished, was tested on Monday and did excellent work."

"The horses which were stolen from the Bell Farm some time ago have all been recovered, five were found near Fort Barford (sic – should be "Buford"), and the remainder in Yellowstone country, Dakota. The thieves were also caught and are now awaiting trial at Miles City."

1884 – Oct. 15 – *Brandon Weekly Mail*, p. 2 – The Bell Farm: Harvest and Horse Thieves

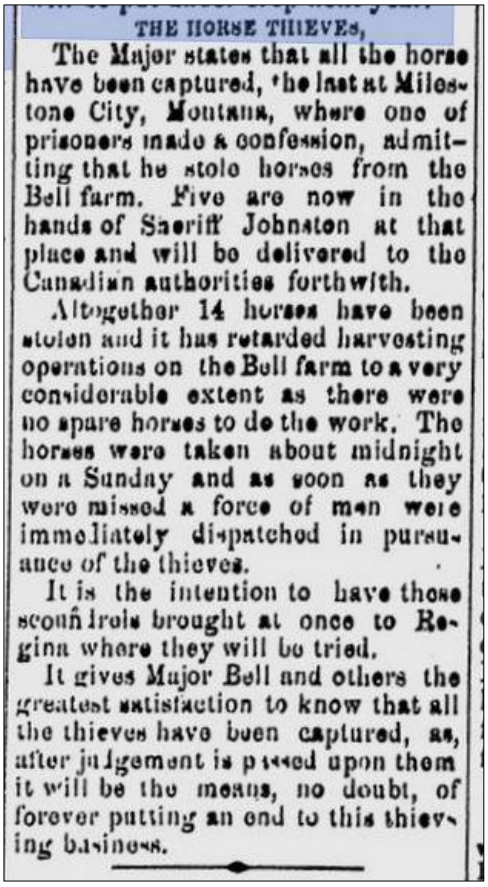


THE BELL FARM.

Harvesting Operations Over—All the Horse Thieves Captured.

Major Bell, of the Bell farm, arrived in this city last night from Indian Head. He was seen by a Times reporter this morning and stated that all the crop on the farm had been cut, and thrashing was now being prosecuted vigorously, 40,000 bushels have already been thrashed and the grain is turning out simply immense. The yield, Major Bell says, is one of the largest ever seen. He regards the prospects for the future as being very bright. Some of the late grain was slightly frozen, and some injured a little in the stack by wet weather, but the extra yield will more than counterbalance this. Seven thrashers are now at work on the farm and from six to eight thousand bushels a day are being turned out. From twelve to thirteen thousand acres will be put under crop next year.

THE HORSE THIEVES,



THE HORSE THIEVES,

The Major states that all the horse have been captured, the last at Milestone City, Montana, where one of prisoners made a confession, admitting that he stole horses from the Bell farm. Five are now in the hands of Sheriff Johnston at that place and will be delivered to the Canadian authorities forthwith.

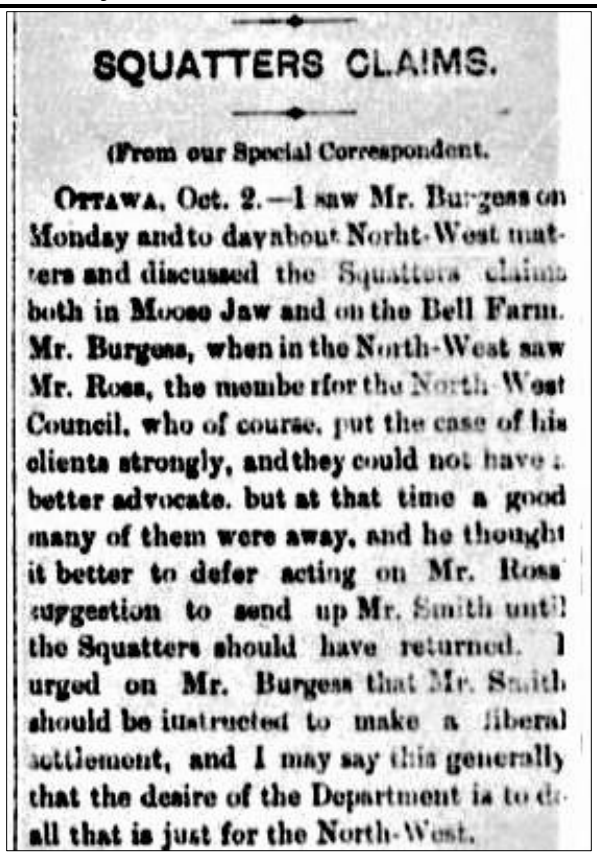
Altogether 14 horses have been stolen and it has retarded harvesting operations on the Bell farm to a very considerable extent as there were no spare horses to do the work. The horses were taken about midnight on a Sunday and as soon as they were missed a force of men were immediately dispatched in pursuance of the thieves.

It is the intention to have those scoundrels brought at once to Regina where they will be tried.

It gives Major Bell and others the greatest satisfaction to know that all the thieves have been captured, as, after judgement is passed upon them it will be the means, no doubt, of forever putting an end to this thieving business.

Part 1 of 2: 68 kb Part 2 of 2: 69 kb

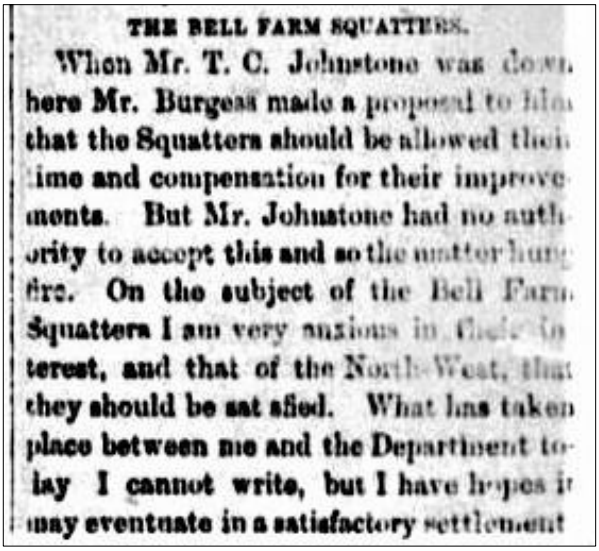
1884 – Oct. 16 – *Regina Leader* –p. 1 – Efforts being made to satisfy the Squatters



SQUATTERS CLAIMS.

(From our Special Correspondent.

OTTAWA, Oct. 2.—I saw Mr. Burgess on Monday and to day about Norht-West matters and discussed the Squatters claims both in Moose Jaw and on the Bell Farm. Mr. Burgess, when in the North-West saw Mr. Ross, the member for the North West Council, who of course, put the case of his clients strongly, and they could not have a better advocate. but at that time a good many of them were away, and he thought it better to defer acting on Mr. Ross' suggestion to send up Mr. Smith until the Squatters should have returned. I urged on Mr. Burgess that Mr. Smith should be instructed to make a liberal settlement, and I may say this generally that the desire of the Department is to do all that is just for the North-West.



THE BELL FARM SQUATTERS.

When Mr. T. C. Johnstone was down here Mr. Burgess made a proposal to him that the Squatters should be allowed their time and compensation for their improvements. But Mr. Johnstone had no authority to accept this and so the matter hung fire. On the subject of the Bell Farm Squatters I am very anxious in their interest, and that of the North-West, that they should be satisfied. What has taken place between me and the Department today I cannot write, but I have hopes it may eventuate in a satisfactory settlement

1884 – Oct. 16 – *Livingston Enterprise* (Livingston, Montana) – follow-up to Sept 14 horses theft report

The theft and chase was reported up by at least six American newspapers, including:

- *Fort Benton River Press,* Montana – Aug. 13, Oct. 1 and Oct. 22
- *Livingston Daily Enterprise*, Montana – Oct. 16
- *Sun River Sun*, Montana – Oct. 23
- *Hope Pioneer*, North Dakota – Oct. 24
- *Wahpeton Times*, North Dakota – Oct. 24
- *Dillon Tribune*, Montana – Nov. 1

Each paper basically reprinted the following brief note, word for word, between Oct. 16 and Nov. 1:

"**To Be Extradited**. The five horse thieves arrested a few days ago near Miles City are to be taken to Regina, in the Canadian Northwest. They stole $12,000 worth of horses from the Bell Farm near there. The officers of Custer county will take them to the Canadian boundary and deliver them to the mounted police."

1884 – Oct. 16, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"Indian Head . . . The first load of grain was put into the new elevator on Monday and the machinery worked admirably.

"Pi-a-pot, like the inquisitive white man wanted to inspect the elevator, and while looking into a grain trap with his chin on the sill [correct word ?] the door fell, and now his face is beautifully decorated allee samee nichee on the warpath."

Also:

"**THE BELL FARM** A meeting of the directors of the Bell Farm was held on the 10th inst. at the offices of the company. The first question discussed was the claims of the squatters who located on the farm. It will be remembered that the question between the company and the squatters was submitted to arbitration last winter. The arbitrators were two M.P.'s from Ontario. The company were to agree to the award on condition that the Government and the squatters – 16 in number – would do the same. The arbitration awarded to each man compensation for improvements made, and suggested that the Government give to each a similar amount of land as claimed by any squatter, in any place he desired it, and also that the time spent in squatting count on the new land they should take. In many cases this meant that the patents should be issued at once for the new location. Some of the squatters were dissatisfied, but after the visit of Deputy Minister Burgess, with one exception, they agreed to abide by the terms of the award. Recently the company learned that some of the squatters were still objecting, and it was mainly for the consideration of this matter that the meeting was held. After much discussion, it was finally agreed that the company accept the terms of the award and pay over immediately to Mr. Gordon, the Dominion lands agent at Regina, the amount awarded in each case, Mr. Gordon to deliver to each squatter who will furnish a written agreement, to the to terms of the award. This arrangement will only apply on the condition that all the squatters, with the exception above mentioned, must accept. – *Sun.*

1884 – Oct. 23, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __ – text blurred, verify (also "fire")

Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society held its first meeting and show. Prizes awarded to Bell Farm for horses; cattle to Motherwell, Skinner and Bell Farm. Also prizes to Bell farm for carrots, red fife wheat. No prizes to Bell Farm for sheep, poultry or swine.

"**Indian Head:** Sergeant Blight of the Mounted Police, last Friday seized an outfit consisting of four mules, ambulance bedding, harness, etc. He also held the two men in charge of suspicion of having stolen the seized property. On questioning them he found that they had come from across the line, and had no papers to show that they had paid duties. On Monday morning Collector of Customs Myles from Regina sold the whole outfit by auction and had the two men in charge arrested and sent to Regina to await their trial doe evading customs. Among the harnesses they were using was found a bridle and collar which were stolen from the Bell Farm at the same time that the horses were taken. It is believed that these two fellows are part of the same gang. Much credit is due to Sergt. Blight for the "slick" way in which he managed the seizure and arrest.

On Thursday evening one of the portable elevators on the Bell Farm was burnt. Luckily it had not been filled with grain, so not great loss has been sustained."

1884 – Oct. 30, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head "The first public telephone was put into operation on Tuesday between A.J. Osment's store and the CPR station. It is expected all business houses will have connection soon.

"The parties who were arrested here last week by Sergt. Blight for evading customs were tried at Regina and sent to Stony Mountain for two months holiday and fined $50 each."

1884 – Nov. 6 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 8 – Bell Farm operation projections for 1885

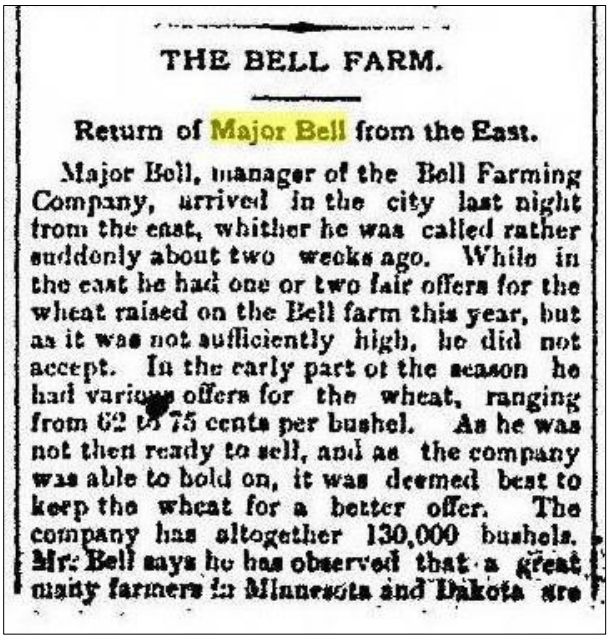
"**TOWN TOPICS –** In conversation with an official of the Bell Farm yesterday, we were informed that Major Bell will still further extend his farming operations if he can be sure of 40 cents per bushed for wheat, as he considers it will pay at that figure."

1884 – Nov. 14 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Major Bell at the Queen's Hotel, Winnipeg

"PERSONAL MENTION – Major W.R. Bell of Indian Head, arrived in the city yesterday, and is at the Queen's"

1884 – Nov. 14 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – Major Bell returns from East to discuss wheat sales

"**THE BELL FARM. Return of Major Bell from the East.**

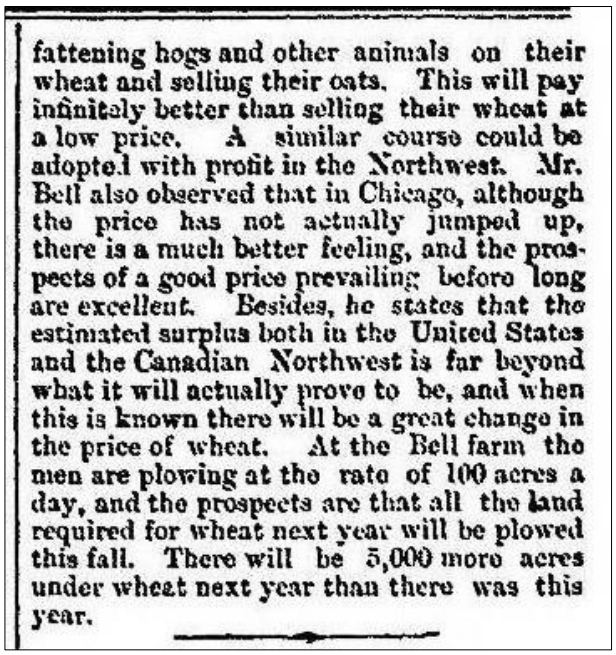


THE BELL FARM.

Return of Major Bell from the East.

Major Bell, manager of the Bell Farming Company, arrived in the city last night from the east, whither he was called rather suddenly about two weeks ago. While in the east he had one or two fair offers for the wheat raised on the Bell farm this year, but as it was not sufficiently high, he did not accept. In the early part of the season he had various offers for the wheat, ranging from 62 to 75 cents per bushel. As he was not then ready to sell, and as the company was able to hold on, it was deemed best to keep the wheat for a better offer. The company has altogether 130,000 bushels. Mr. Bell says he has observed that a great many farmers in Minnesota and Dakota are

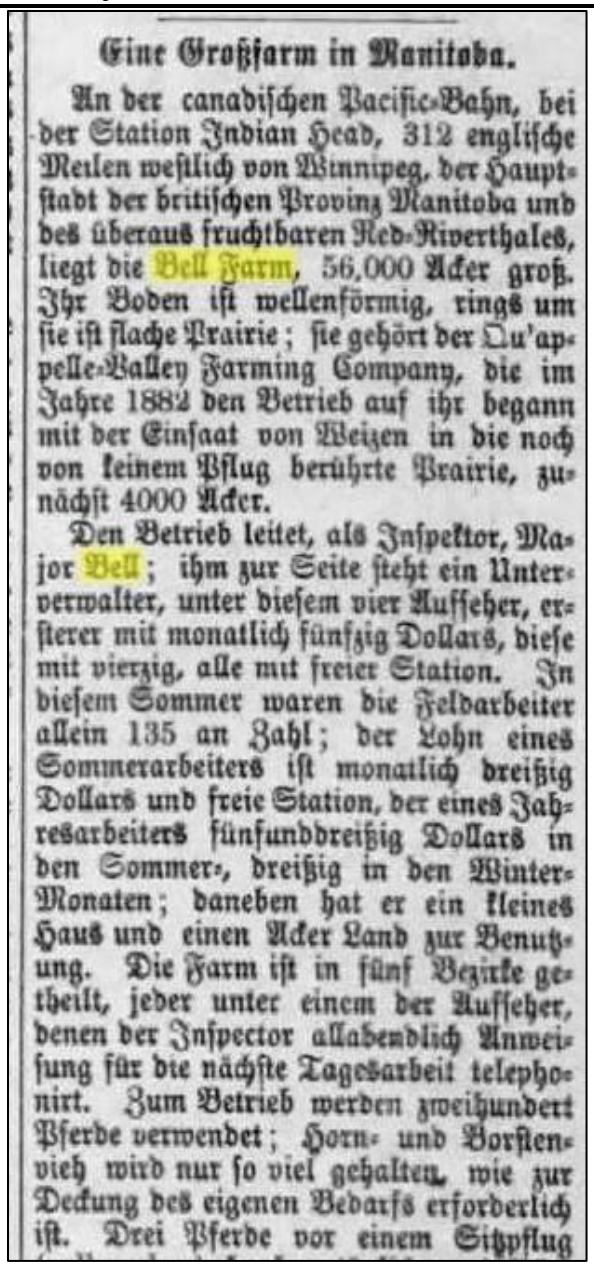
Part 1 of 2 127 kb



fattening hogs and other animals on their wheat and selling their oats. This will pay infinitely better than selling their wheat at a low price. A similar course could be adopted with profit in the Northwest. Mr. Bell also observed that in Chicago, although the price has not actually jumped up, there is a much better feeling, and the prospects of a good price prevailing before long are excellent. Besides, he states that the estimated surplus both in the United States and the Canadian Northwest is far beyond what it will actually prove to be, and when this is known there will be a great change in the price of wheat. At the Bell farm the men are plowing at the rate of 100 acres a day, and the prospects are that all the land required for wheat next year will be plowed this fall. There will be 5,000 more acres under wheat next year than there was this year.

Part 2 of 2 140 kb

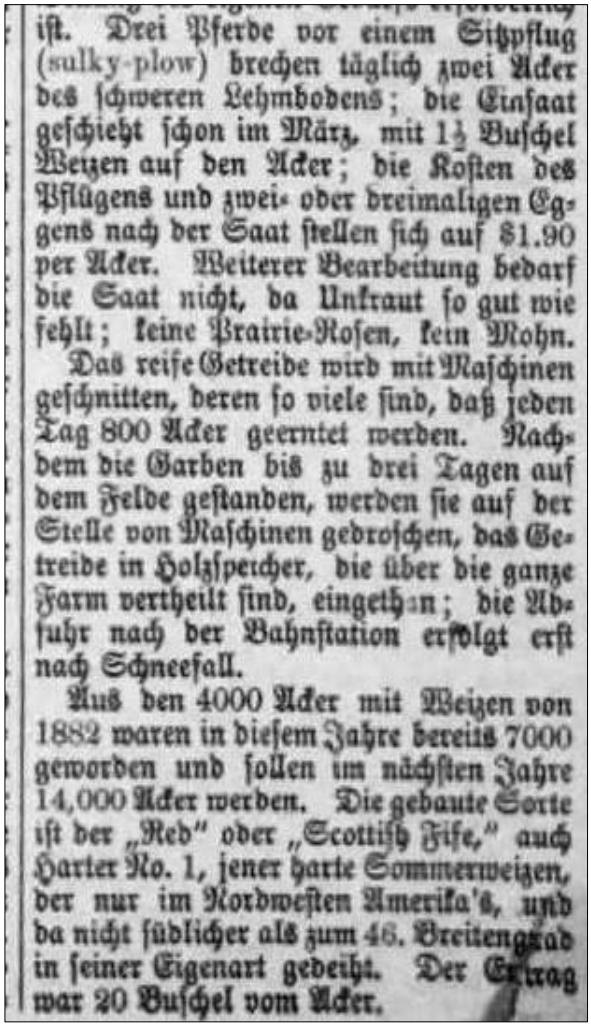
1884 – Nov. 20 – *Der Westbote*, p. 2 (Columbus, Ohio) – Bell Farm report (in German text) – need translation



Eine Großfarm in Manitoba.

An der canadiſchen Pacific-Bahn, bei der Station Indian Head, 312 engliſche Meilen weſtlich von Winnipeg, der Hauptſtadt der britiſchen Provinz Manitoba und des überaus fruchtbaren Red-Riverthales, liegt die Bell Farm, 56,000 Acker groß. Ihr Boden iſt wellenförmig, rings um ſie iſt flache Prairie; ſie gehört der Qu'appelle-Valley Farming Company, die im Jahre 1882 den Betrieb auf ihr begann mit der Einſaat von Weizen in die noch von keinem Pflug berührte Prairie, zunächſt 4000 Acker.

Den Betrieb leitet, als Inſpektor, Major Bell; ihm zur Seite ſteht ein Unterverwalter, unter dieſem vier Aufſeher, erſterer mit monatlich fünfzig Dollars, dieſe mit vierzig, alle mit freier Station. In dieſem Sommer waren die Feldarbeiter allein 135 an Zahl; der Lohn eines Sommerarbeiters iſt monatlich dreißig Dollars und freie Station, der eines Jahresarbeiters fünfunddreißig Dollars in den Sommer-, dreißig in den Winter-Monaten; daneben hat er ein kleines Haus und einen Acker Land zur Benutzung. Die Farm iſt in fünf Bezirke getheilt, jeder unter einem der Aufſeher, denen der Inſpector allabendlich Anweiſung für die nächſte Tagesarbeit telephonirt. Zum Betrieb werden zweihundert Pferde verwendet; Horn- und Borſtenvieh wird nur ſo viel gehalten, wie zur Deckung des eigenen Bedarfs erforderlich iſt. Drei Pferde vor einem Sitzpflug



iſt. Drei Pferde vor einem Sitzpflug (sulky-plow) brechen täglich zwei Acker des ſchweren Lehmbodens; die Einſaat geſchieht ſchon im März, mit 1½ Buſchel Weizen auf den Acker; die Koſten des Pflügens und zwei- oder dreimaligen Eggens nach der Saat ſtellen ſich auf $1.90 per Acker. Weiterer Bearbeitung bedarf die Saat nicht, da Unkraut ſo gut wie fehlt; keine Prairie-Roſen, kein Mohn.

Das reife Getreide wird mit Maſchinen geſchnitten, deren ſo viele ſind, daß jeden Tag 800 Acker geerntet werden. Nachdem die Garben bis zu drei Tagen auf dem Felde geſtanden, werden ſie auf der Stelle von Maſchinen gedroſchen, das Getreide in Holzſpeicher, die über die ganze Farm vertheilt ſind, eingethan; die Abfuhr nach der Bahnſtation erfolgt erſt nach Schneefall.

Aus den 4000 Acker mit Weizen von 1882 waren in dieſem Jahre bereits 7000 geworden und ſollen im nächſten Jahre 14,000 Acker werden. Die gebaute Sorte iſt der „Red" oder „Scottiſh Fife," auch Harter No. 1, jener harte Sommerweizen, der nur im Nordweſten Amerika's, und da nicht ſüdlicher als zum 46. Breitengrad in ſeiner Eigenart gedeiht. Der Ertrag war 20 Buſchel vom Acker.

Part 1 of 2: 125 kb

Part 2 of 2 108 kb

1884 – Nov. 20, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head "The settlement of the Bell farm squatters has finally been effected. On Saturday the treasurer of the company handed over a cheque for the amount awarded by the arbiters against the Bell farm company, $4,310.00. Besides being paid for the improvements made by the respective squatters, each is permitted an entry in the railway or Regina reserves. The time squatters on the Bell farm being allowed them on the permitted entry. Mr. T.C. Johnstone, who has been in Winnipeg acting for the squatters has returned."

1884 – Nov 20 & subsequent issues after, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

[Advertisement] "A.J. Osment, dealer in Lumber, Sash, Doors, Plasterer's Hair, furniture, Undertaker's supplies, flour and feed. Just arrived one car load of choice winter apples. Indian Head, NWT"

1884 – Dec. 3 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun* , p. 4 – Major Bell in Winnipeg, staying at the Queen's Hotel

"**PERSONAL MENTION. The Movements of "People We Know". . . . . .** Major Bell, of Indian Head, is at the Queen's. . . . . S.C. Battiscombe and Major Bell, of Indian Head, are at the Queen's."

1884 – Dec. 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell staying at the Queens Hotel, Winnipeg

"**PERSONAL**. Major Bell, of Indian Head, is at the Queens."

1884 – Dec. 4, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Major Bell to Winnipeg to buy machinery for mill – **check for details**

1884 – Dec. 18, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head: "A.J. Osment is busy with his men staking out the foundation of the new grist mill."

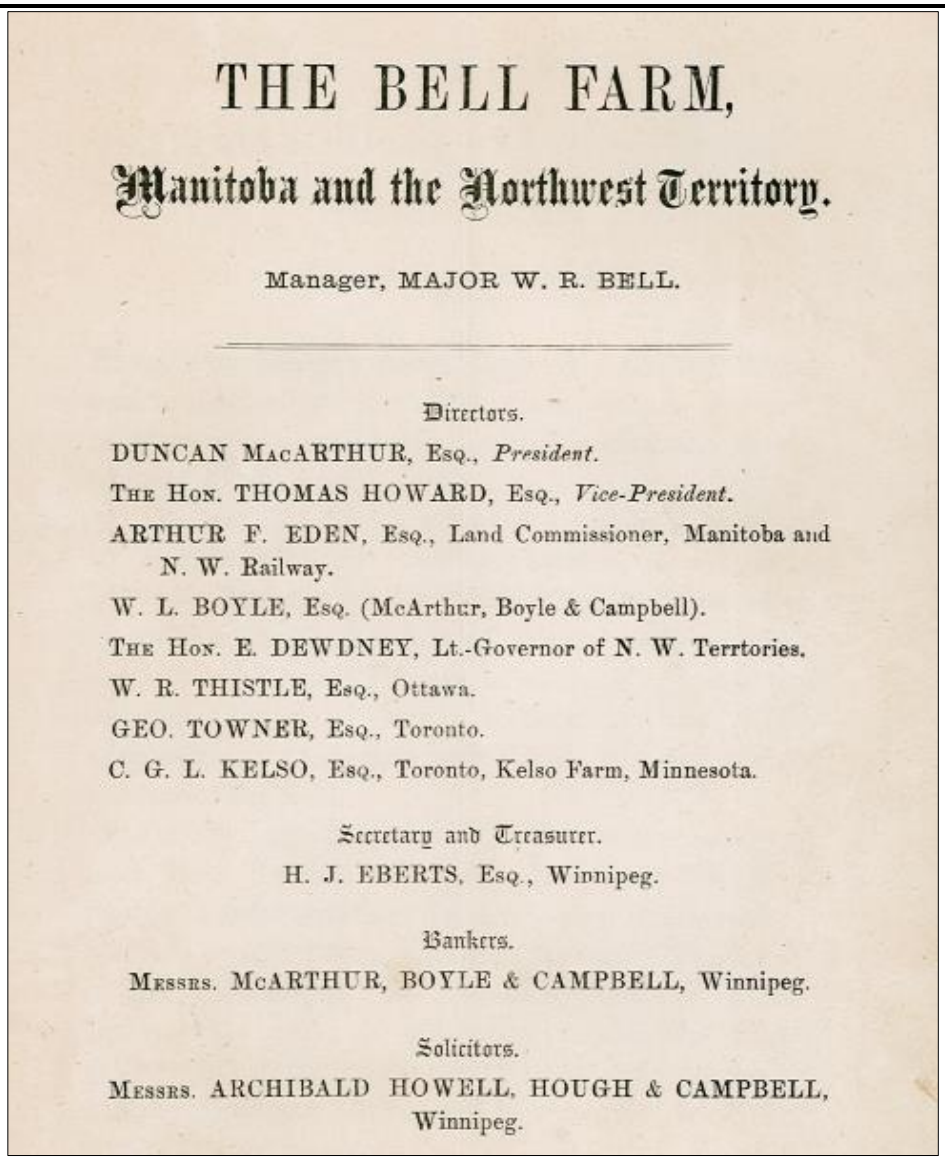
1884 – Dec. 25, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head: "The foundations for the new mill were finished last Tuesday (16 inst)"

"Mr. and Mrs. Bell have gone south for the winter."

A.J. Osment re-elected second vice-president of the Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society. A.J. Osment also member of a committee presenting a petition regarding the formation of a municipality to Lt. Gov. Dewdney.

1885



THE BELL FARM,

Manitoba and the Northwest Territory.

Manager, MAJOR W. R. BELL.

Directors.

DUNCAN MacARTHUR, Esq., *President.*

The Hon. THOMAS HOWARD, Esq., *Vice-President.*

ARTHUR F. EDEN, Esq., Land Commissioner, Manitoba and N. W. Railway.

W. L. BOYLE, Esq. (McArthur, Boyle & Campbell).

The Hon. E. DEWDNEY, Lt.-Governor of N. W. Terrtories.

W. R. THISTLE, Esq., Ottawa.

GEO. TOWNER, Esq., Toronto.

C. G. L. KELSO, Esq., Toronto, Kelso Farm, Minnesota.

Secretary and Treasurer.

H. J. EBERTS, Esq., Winnipeg.

Bankers.

Messrs. McARTHUR, BOYLE & CAMPBELL, Winnipeg.

Solicitors.

Messrs. ARCHIBALD HOWELL, HOUGH & CAMPBELL, Winnipeg.

240 kb

Bell Farm Manager, Directors, Bankers and Solicitors in 1884

1885 – Jan 2 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – check for details – There is no Jan. 2, 1885 issue

1885 – Jan. ___- _____ - Annual meeting of Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company delayed until March.

"The annual meeting of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company is not to take place till March."

1885 - 3 Jan. – *Adelaide Observer*, p. 12 – Review of the Bell Farm operations based in 1884 visit by Dr. Edmonds

r7 The Tasmanian | 1885 Jan3 Adelaide Observer

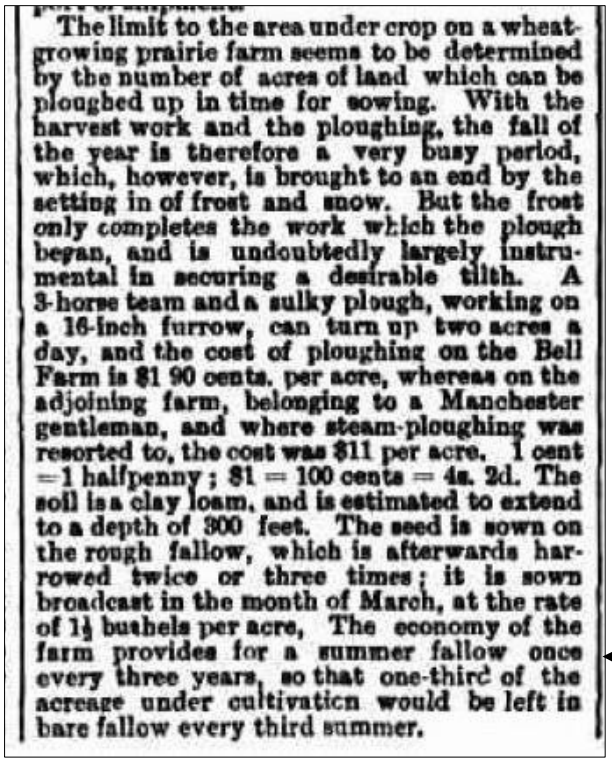
found for it.

THE DAIRY.

THE BELL FARM.

Leaving Winnipeg, the metropolis of Manitoba, and proceeding westward along the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway across the prairie, a run of 312 miles brings the traveller to the station of Indian Head, just before entering which the train passes along the south side of Bell Farm. This great farm is comprised in the operations of the Qu'Apelle Valley Farming Company, and the details we are now able to place before our readers were obtained in the course of a conversation with the manager, Major Bell, during a recent visit to the farm.

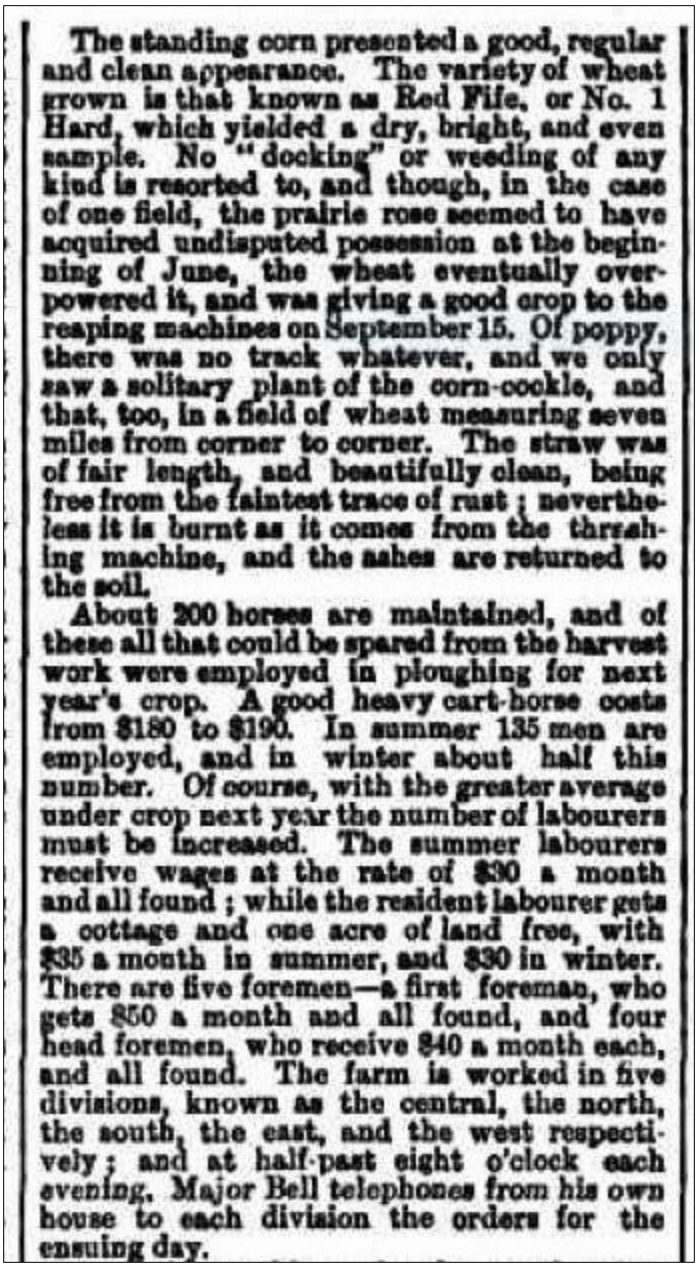
The farm covers no less an area than 56,000 acres, and was organized so recently as the year 1882. Driving across the farm one notes the usual characteristics of prairie land in the form of vast plains extending almost unbrokenly before the eye, till the land disappears at the horizon; on the Bell Farm some slight undulation affords a little variation to the level monotony that prevails all around. In 1883 the area of wheat grown was 4,000 acres, which yielded an average of 20 bushels an acre from the sod—that is, without back-setting. This year, 7,000 acres were under wheat, and next year it is proposed to have 14,000 acres under this crop. The harvest is usually over by the middle of August, but, this year having been marked in the north-west territory by a cold backward season, the in-gathering of the crop was in full swing in the middle of September, so that we had an opportunity of seeing thirty-five reaping machines at work side by side. The sheaves, as they come from the self-binders, are left in the fields for a day or two and then carried to the thrashing machines, the grain from which is shot into large wooden granaries in the fields. During the winter, when work in general is slack, the granaries are emptied, and the wheat conveyed, by means of sleighs, across the snow to the elevators adjoining the railway, whence it is transferred into the freight wagons as required, and conveyed to the



The limit to the area under crop on a wheat-growing prairie farm seems to be determined by the number of acres of land which can be ploughed up in time for sowing. With the harvest work and the ploughing, the fall of the year is therefore a very busy period, which, however, is brought to an end by the setting in of frost and snow. But the frost only completes the work which the plough began, and is undoubtedly largely instrumental in securing a desirable tilth. A 3-horse team and a sulky plough, working on a 16-inch furrow, can turn up two acres a day, and the cost of ploughing on the Bell Farm is $1 90 cents. per acre, whereas on the adjoining farm, belonging to a Manchester gentleman, and where steam-ploughing was resorted to, the cost was $11 per acre. 1 cent =1 halfpenny; $1 = 100 cents = 4s. 2d. The soil is a clay loam, and is estimated to extend to a depth of 300 feet. The seed is sown on the rough fallow, which is afterwards harrowed twice or three times; it is sown broadcast in the month of March, at the rate of 1½ bushels per acre, The economy of the farm provides for a summer fallow once every three years, so that one-third of the acreage under cultivation would be left in bare fallow every third summer.

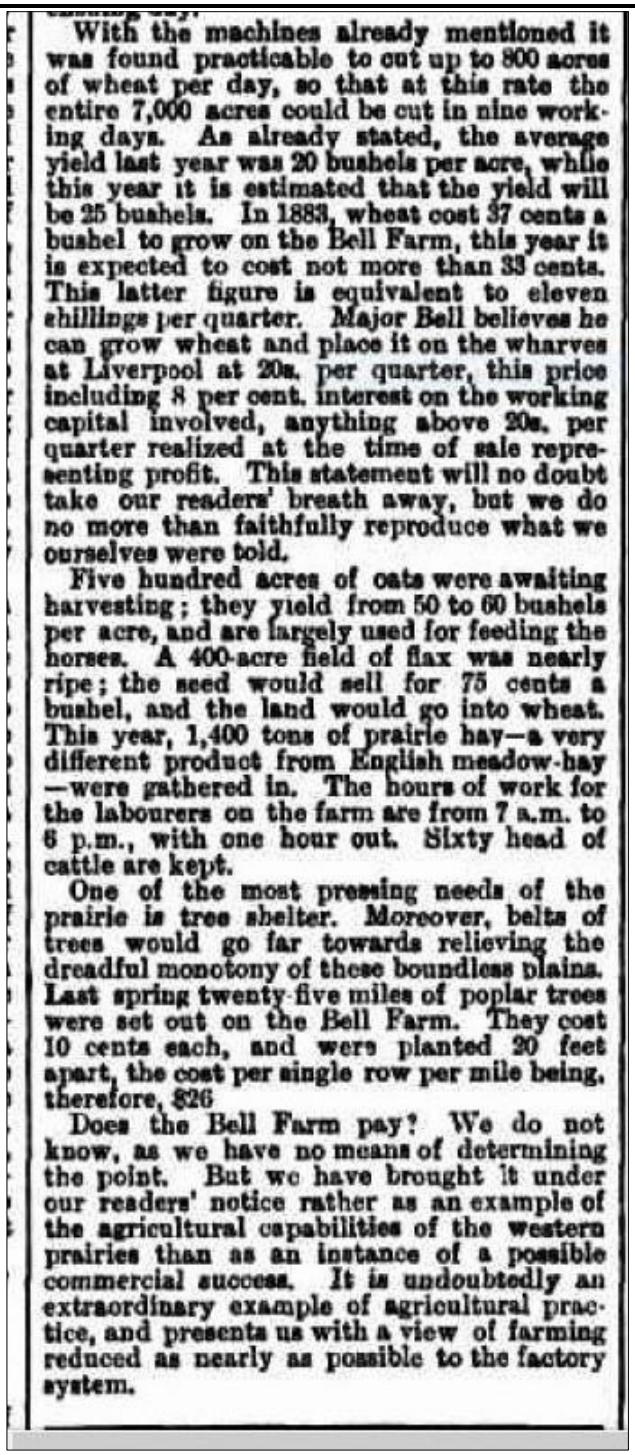
Part 1 of 4: – 188 kb

Part 2 of 4: – 128 kb summer fallow



The standing corn presented a good, regular and clean appearance. The variety of wheat grown is that known as Red Fife, or No. 1 Hard, which yielded a dry, bright, and even sample. No "docking" or weeding of any kind is resorted to, and though, in the case of one field, the prairie rose seemed to have acquired undisputed possession at the beginning of June, the wheat eventually overpowered it, and was giving a good crop to the reaping machines on September 15. Of poppy, there was no track whatever, and we only saw a solitary plant of the corn-cockle, and that, too, in a field of wheat measuring seven miles from corner to corner. The straw was of fair length, and beautifully clean, being free from the faintest trace of rust; nevertheless it is burnt as it comes from the threshing machine, and the ashes are returned to the soil.

About 200 horses are maintained, and of these all that could be spared from the harvest work were employed in ploughing for next year's crop. A good heavy cart-horse costs from $180 to $190. In summer 135 men are employed, and in winter about half this number. Of course, with the greater average under crop next year the number of labourers must be increased. The summer labourers receive wages at the rate of $30 a month and all found; while the resident labourer gets a cottage and one acre of land free, with $35 a month in summer, and $30 in winter. There are five foremen—a first foreman, who gets $50 a month and all found, and four head foremen, who receive $40 a month each, and all found. The farm is worked in five divisions, known as the central, the north, the south, the east, and the west respectively; and at half-past eight o'clock each evening, Major Bell telephones from his own house to each division the orders for the ensuing day.



With the machines already mentioned it was found practicable to cut up to 800 acres of wheat per day, so that at this rate the entire 7,000 acres could be cut in nine working days. As already stated, the average yield last year was 20 bushels per acre, while this year it is estimated that the yield will be 25 bushels. In 1883, wheat cost 37 cents a bushel to grow on the Bell Farm, this year it is expected to cost not more than 33 cents. This latter figure is equivalent to eleven shillings per quarter. Major Bell believes he can grow wheat and place it on the wharves at Liverpool at 20s. per quarter, this price including 8 per cent. interest on the working capital involved, anything above 20s. per quarter realized at the time of sale representing profit. This statement will no doubt take our readers' breath away, but we do no more than faithfully reproduce what we ourselves were told.

Five hundred acres of oats were awaiting harvesting; they yield from 50 to 60 bushels per acre, and are largely used for feeding the horses. A 400-acre field of flax was nearly ripe; the seed would sell for 75 cents a bushel, and the land would go into wheat. This year, 1,400 tons of prairie hay—a very different product from English meadow-hay—were gathered in. The hours of work for the labourers on the farm are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with one hour out. Sixty head of cattle are kept.

One of the most pressing needs of the prairie is tree shelter. Moreover, belts of trees would go far towards relieving the dreadful monotony of these boundless plains. Last spring twenty-five miles of poplar trees were set out on the Bell Farm. They cost 10 cents each, and were planted 20 feet apart, the cost per single row per mile being, therefore, $26

Does the Bell Farm pay? We do not know, as we have no means of determining the point. But we have brought it under our readers' notice rather as an example of the agricultural capabilities of the western prairies than as an instance of a possible commercial success. It is undoubtedly an extraordinary example of agricultural practice, and presents us with a view of farming reduced as nearly as possible to the factory system.

Part 3 of 4: - 162 kb

Part 4 of 4: – 187 kb

1885 – Jan. 7 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell is in Winnipeg.

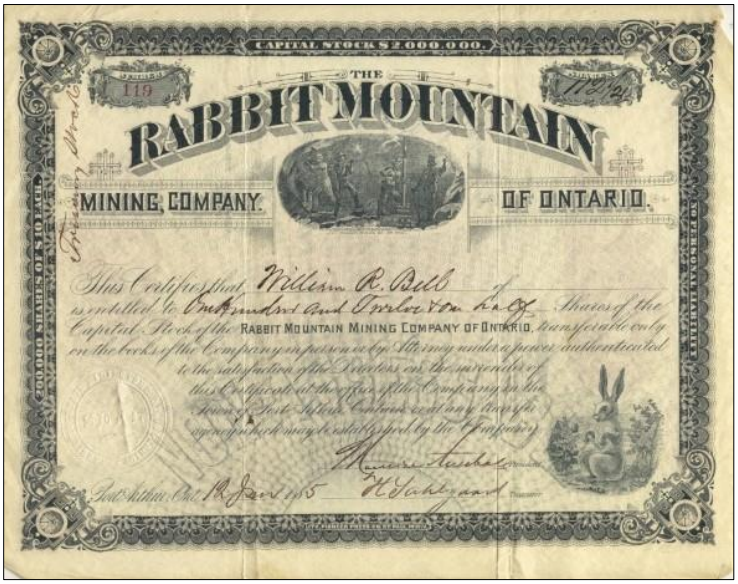
"CITY AND PROVINCE - . . . . . Major W.R. Bell, of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, is in the city."

1885 – Jan. 7 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Major Bell is in Winnipeg.

"PERSONAL MENTION - . . . . . Major W.R. Bell, of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, is in the city."

1885 – 7 Jan and 12 Jan – Shares in Rabbit Mountain Mining Company of Ontario

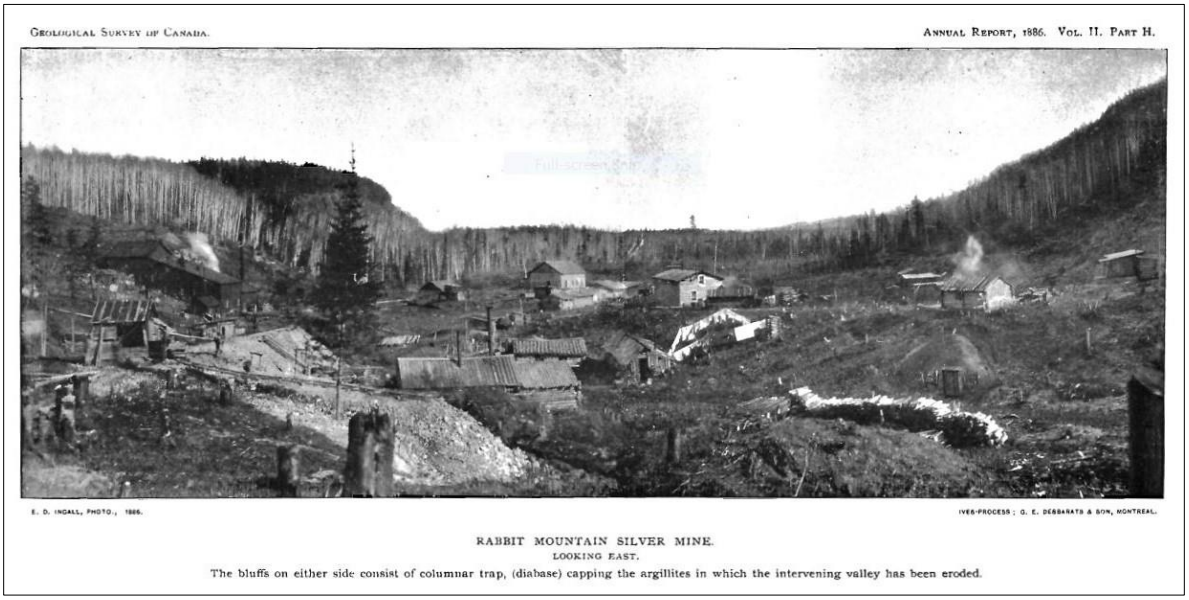
Major Bell acquired 2187½ shares in the company on Jan. 7 and a further 112½ shares on Jan. 12; giving him a total of 2,200 shares. The shares appear to be worth $10 each at time of purchase.


CAPITAL STOCK $2,000,000.
THE
RABBIT MOUNTAIN
MINING COMPANY
OF ONTARIO.
This Certifies that William R. Bell
is entitled to One Hundred and Twelve ½ Shares of the
Capital Stock of the Rabbit Mountain Mining Company of Ontario, transferable only
on the books of the Company in person or by Attorney under a power authenticated
to the satisfaction of the Directors on the surrender of
this Certificate at the office of the Company in the
Town of Port Arthur, Ontario, and any share
upon which may be duly paid by the Company

146 kb

For Value Received hereby Sell Transfer and
Assign to
the Shares of Stock within mentioned and authorize
to make the necessary transfer on the Books of the
Company
Witness hand and Seal this
day of
Witnessed by

102 kb


Geological Survey of Canada.
Annual Report, 1886. Vol. II. Part H.
E. D. Ingall, Photo., 1886.
Ives-Process; G. E. Desbarats & Son, Montreal.
RABBIT MOUNTAIN SILVER MINE.
LOOKING EAST.
The bluffs on either side consist of columnar trap, (diabase) capping the argillites in which the intervening valley has been eroded.

Rabbit Mountain Silver Mine, ca.1886 (198 kb)

"Photograph of the mine site at Rabbit Mountain, near Stanley. At this site was the stamp mill, log houses, a general store and a small hotel. Silver was discovered in the Rabbit Mountain area in 1882. This was one of the first of a series of silver finds by Oliver Daunais, the 'Silver King'."

(Source: http://images.ourontario.ca/gateway/56424/data: Gateway to Northwestern Ontario History, Thunder Bay Public Library)

1885 – Jan. 14 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, P.4 – Law Suit between HBC and Major Bell

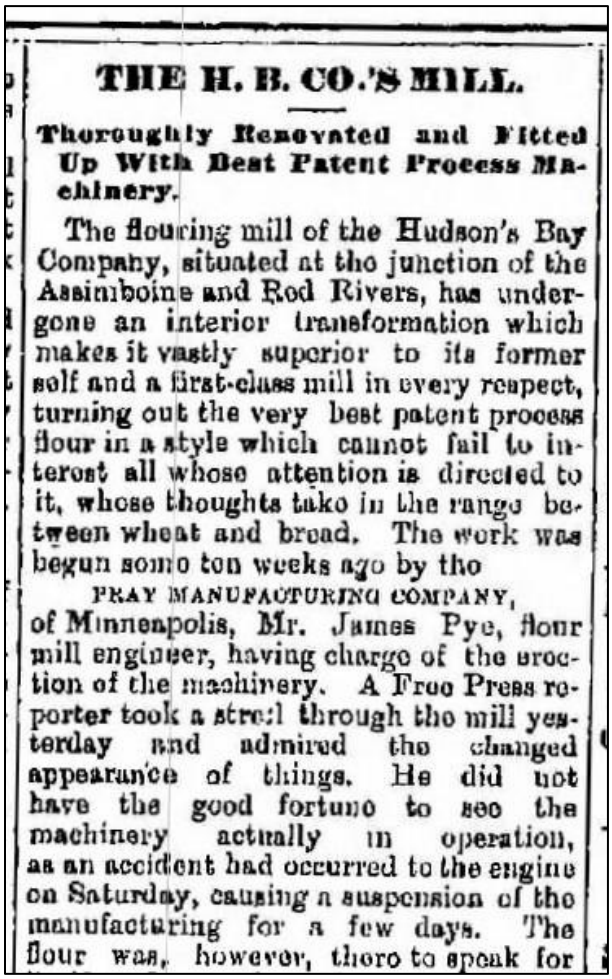
"TUESDAY TRIALS . . . . Equity Paper. The following cases are on to-day's equity paper: Austin v. Ferria, Green v. McDonald, Milman v. Cowan, H.B.C. v. Dennis, H.B.C. v. Bell, H.B.C. v. Lowe, H.B.C. v. Bura, Taylor v. Sharp, McDonald v. Cunningham, Pye v. Cameron, Johnston v. Munroe."

1885 – Jan. 15 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 - QVFC – Annual Meeting postponed to March

"**CITY AND PROVINCE** – The annual meeting of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company has been postponed until March."

1885 – Jan 20 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell Farm Flour Mill, erected by Pray Manufacturing

[Details of the HBC's Winnipeg Mill likely reflect the interior of the new flour mill being built by the same contractor at Indian Head.]



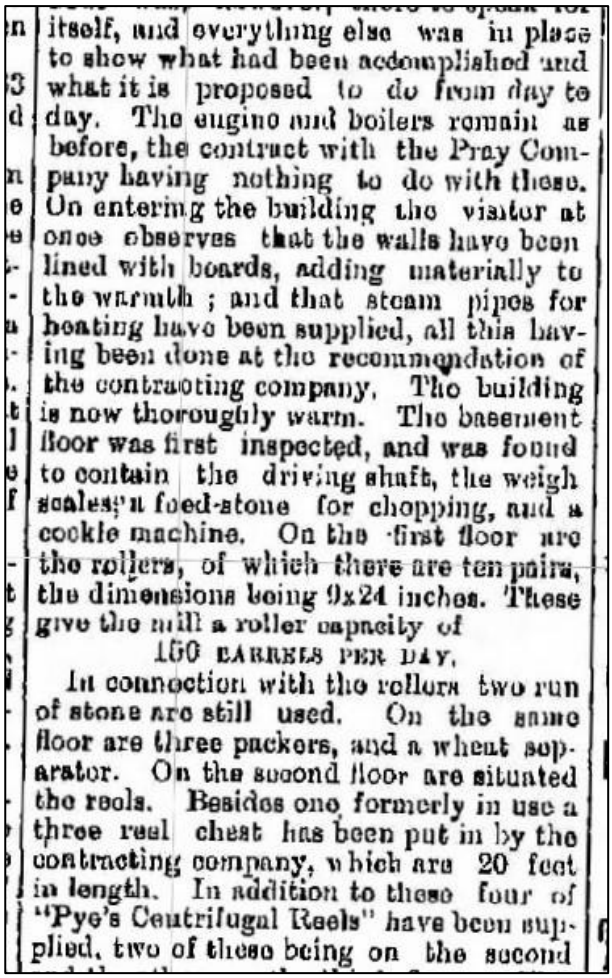
THE H. B. CO.'S MILL.

Thoroughly Renovated and Fitted Up With Best Patent Process Machinery.

The flouring mill of the Hudson's Bay Company, situated at the junction of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, has undergone an interior transformation which makes it vastly superior to its former self and a first-class mill in every respect, turning out the very best patent process flour in a style which cannot fail to interest all whose attention is directed to it, whose thoughts take in the range between wheat and bread. The work was begun some ten weeks ago by the

PRAY MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

of Minneapolis, Mr. James Pye, flour mill engineer, having charge of the erection of the machinery. A Free Press reporter took a stroll through the mill yesterday and admired the changed appearance of things. He did not have the good fortune to see the machinery actually in operation, as an accident had occurred to the engine on Saturday, causing a suspension of the manufacturing for a few days. The flour was, however, there to speak for



itself, and everything else was in place to show what had been accomplished and what it is proposed to do from day to day. The engine and boilers remain as before, the contract with the Pray Company having nothing to do with these. On entering the building the visitor at once observes that the walls have been lined with boards, adding materially to the warmth; and that steam pipes for heating have been supplied, all this having been done at the recommendation of the contracting company. The building is now thoroughly warm. The basement floor was first inspected, and was found to contain the driving shaft, the weigh scales, a feed-stone for chopping, and a cockle machine. On the first floor are the rollers, of which there are ten pairs, the dimensions being 9x24 inches. These give the mill a roller capacity of

150 BARRELS PER DAY.

In connection with the rollers two run of stone are still used. On the same floor are three packers, and a wheat separator. On the second floor are situated the reels. Besides one formerly in use a three reel chest has been put in by the contracting company, which are 20 feet in length. In addition to these four of "Pye's Centrifugal Reels" have been supplied, two of these being on the second

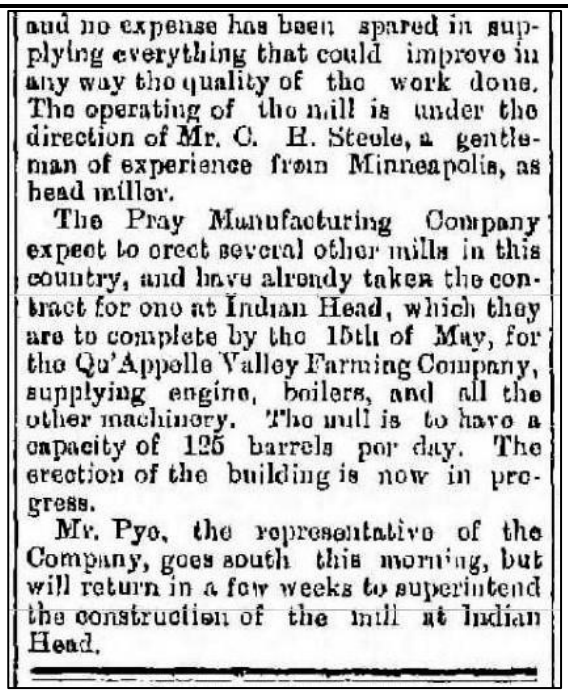
Part 1 of 4 145 kb

Part 2 of 4 159 kb

and the others on the third floor. This reel is a new invention introduced about eighteen months ago, and now largely used in the United States. Its peculiarity consists in a system of revolving beaters, which revolve much more rapidly than the reel itself, and force the flour through the silk. Six No. 1 Smith purifiers are used, and to each of these is attached a Peerless dust collector, which collects and saves the fine dust that otherwise would be thrown out. On the third floor are found the two Pye's centrifugal reels already mentioned, five scalping reels, a bran duster, and a smutter of a new design just introduced, which removes not only the smut, but also the germ of the wheat, thereby increasing the whiteness of the flour. In short, in the reconstruction of the mill

EVERYTHING IS COMPLETE

Part 3 of 4 124 kb



and no expense has been spared in supplying everything that could improve in any way the quality of the work done. The operating of the mill is under the direction of Mr. C. H. Steele, a gentleman of experience from Minneapolis, as head miller.

The Pray Manufacturing Company expect to erect several other mills in this country, and have already taken the contract for one at Indian Head, which they are to complete by the 15th of May, for the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, supplying engine, boilers, and all the other machinery. The mill is to have a capacity of 125 barrels per day. The erection of the building is now in progress.

Mr. Pye, the representative of the Company, goes south this morning, but will return in a few weeks to superintend the construction of the mill at Indian Head.

Part 4 of 4 152 kb

1885 – Jan. 22, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. Contract for grist mill to Mr. George Geddes.

1885 – Jan. 27 – *Journal of the Society of Arts* – Paper by Stephen Bourne on 1884 Bell Farm tour – including 60 visitors (p. 263), and comments for other British Association members

round the bases of the hills." Thus we followed the course of the Bow river, not losing sight of the range of snow hills, until twenty miles beyond Calgary, which town is 100 miles from the present end of the line. It is south of this that the largest cattle ranches are found, on one of which the proprietor told me he had 16,000 head of cattle. Entering again the prairie land, for there was no time to deviate from the one track, the train pursued its homeward course, but was stopped at various places and points —at one to see considerable numbers of the Indians, amongst them the celebrated "Crowfoot," at another to hold Divine service on the Sunday morning, at a third to visit the Bell Farm. At this farm—extending over ten square miles—there were 7,000 acres under crop this year, and an equal area prepared for additional planting in the coming season. Conveyances were provided to drive sixty of the passengers round the field, a circuit of seven miles. The cultivation here is very simple, merely that of driving the plough through the surface, dropping the seed into the loosened soil, and then sending the reaping machine to gather in the ripened crop. Comparatively little manual labour is employed, and the few resident hands find sufficient employment in tending the stalled cattle in the winter season. One feature, indicating the economy of labour which needs to be practised, is the laying down telephonic wires from head-quarters to the houses of the different head-men, who reside at the outskirts of the cultivated fields. It was calculated by Major Bell that this year he would have produce enough to load ten railway trucks every day, from January to December. The halt for service, on the Sunday morning, was quite unique. Passing by Regina, where

p. 263 - Bourne - telephone

duction in the fire. He said, people had come out who were gentlemanly fellows, and he had asked them to dinner, but within three months he had had to go and bail them out of the police-court, and pay their debts, or see them go to jail. It was these men who on their return spread disparaging reports of the country. He had visited the Bell Farm, and there saw 100 square miles, under conditions which Major Bell told him enabled him to send ten car-loads of wheat per day down to his railway station for England; that he could ship the wheat on the railway-car at Indian Head for 13s. a quarter, and pay eight per cent. on the capital invested. He also told him that so long as wheat fetched 27s. a quarter in Liverpool, with only the present facilities of transport, he could make eight per cent. on any amount of capital invested in the cultivation of land. The land he travelled over there was amongst the finest on the face of the earth, and men there could live the healthiest life possible, apart from those factors of refined civilisation such as could only be obtained in London or other great cities. Such a power of manufacturing wheat really meant that the present condition of agriculture in this country was not one of temporary depression; there was a revolution to come over the country, and the land now devoted to the growth of cereals and the legumenosæ must go out of cultivation, and would remain out of cultivation, and fail to produce rents to idlers as it had hitherto done, until the time came when it would be utilised for villa residences and garden properties, or dairy produce farms. Mr. Walford had disclaimed the notion of throwing cold water on emigration, and yet he certainly spoke in such a way as to dishearten their poorer brethren, who ought to be encouraged to go out there, and take part in developing this great country. Any grown man, over eighteen years of age, could now go to Manitoba and have a fine farm on which there was not a tree to cut down unless he chose, half a mile square of alluvial land fit to put the plough into at once, and pay nothing but a two guinea survey fee. He could also pre-empt the adjoining half mile square of land for a sum amounting to £40. He had to pay altogether 10s. an acre for

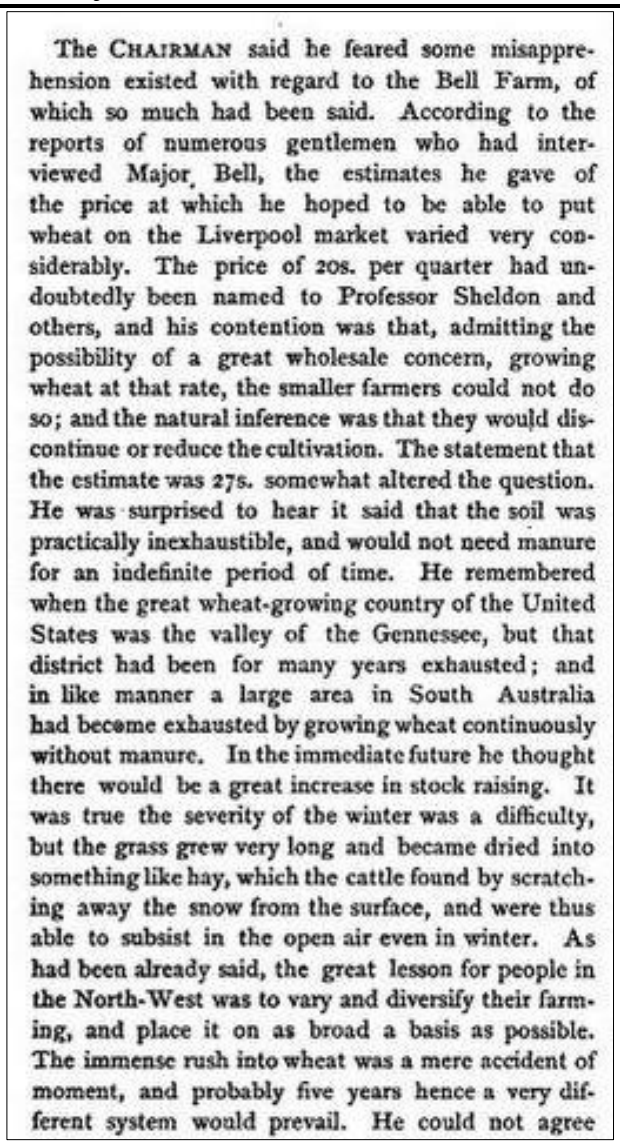
p. 270 – Edmunds

Major CRAIGIE said he could not altogether agree with the remarks of the last speaker as to the enormous future he had opened. No one would accuse him of a desire to depreciate the great Dominion, but there seemed something in a large continent which irresistibly enlarged one's ideas or the terms in which they were expressed, and he could not help feeling that, both in Canada and the States, all accounts one heard must be taken by a careful man with great caution, and with some discount for exaggeration. He also went over the Bell Farm, but he could not agree that it would be a tempting prospect for an English capitalist to place his money in farming that particular district at the present time with wheat at 27s. a quarter at Liverpool. He did not say that a vast deal more wheat could not be grown there, but taking one year with another, and considering the risk of the seasons, and the cost of transit, which could not always be diminishing, he did not see what prospect there was of fortunes being made by sending wheat to this country at 27s. a quarter. He found within 150 miles of Winnipeg there had been ten times as much wheat raised last year as in the one previous, and he could not help reflecting what would happen if this were to go on. They had seen already how the price of wheat had gone down with increased imports from India and America, and he thought it would be both foolish and impossible to rely on that one product in the future as the emigrants' stand-by. Those who went out from this country must go in for mixed husbandry, and for producing those different productions for which that great dominion was eminently fitted. He did not

p. 271 – Craigie

Mr. BOURNE, in reply, said he did not wish to raise the question of protection or free trade, but he did feel that in dealing with the question of emigration he was bound to point out what he believed would be an insuperable obstacle to the extensive settlement of the land, viz., that the occupants were not only saddled with the expenses of maintaining their own cultivation, and competing with low prices, but forced to pay more for all articles which they cannot grow themselves, including even the instruments of husbandry, in order to protect the manufacturers of the colony. It was not to be expected that the English public would find money to transport labourers to those soils, if, when they got there, they were exposed to these conditions, to the detriment of those who were left at home. This was a drawback which, to his mind, must be overcome before it would be feasible to send out there the large number of emigrants the colonists looked for, and without which they would suffer materially from the large expense incurred in making the railway, and opening up the country. He thought Dr. Edmunds had a little exaggerated the sanguine expectations of Major Bell. He saw that gentleman, too, but did not remember hearing the figures quoted by Dr. Edmunds. He did hear 20s. or 22s. spoken of as the price at which wheat could be delivered at the railway station adjoining the farm; and even that was called in question at the time. Certainly the

p. 271 – Bourne reply



The CHAIRMAN said he feared some misapprehension existed with regard to the Bell Farm, of which so much had been said. According to the reports of numerous gentlemen who had interviewed Major Bell, the estimates he gave of the price at which he hoped to be able to put wheat on the Liverpool market varied very considerably. The price of 20s. per quarter had undoubtedly been named to Professor Sheldon and others, and his contention was that, admitting the possibility of a great wholesale concern, growing wheat at that rate, the smaller farmers could not do so; and the natural inference was that they would discontinue or reduce the cultivation. The statement that the estimate was 27s. somewhat altered the question. He was surprised to hear it said that the soil was practically inexhaustible, and would not need manure for an indefinite period of time. He remembered when the great wheat-growing country of the United States was the valley of the Gennessee, but that district had been for many years exhausted; and in like manner a large area in South Australia had become exhausted by growing wheat continuously without manure. In the immediate future he thought there would be a great increase in stock raising. It was true the severity of the winter was a difficulty, but the grass grew very long and became dried into something like hay, which the cattle found by scratching away the snow from the surface, and were thus able to subsist in the open air even in winter. As had been already said, the great lesson for people in the North-West was to vary and diversify their farming, and place it on as broad a basis as possible. The immense rush into wheat was a mere accident of moment, and probably five years hence a very different system would prevail. He could not agree

p. 272 – Chairman Lefroy's comment

1885 – Jan. 29, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Mr. Hartsinck of Bell Farm, returned from a week's visit to Winnipeg on Saturday evening."

1885 – Feb 4 – *London Times* – p. 14 – Advertisement for Bell Farm agricultural college.

"FARMING in MANITOBA. – The Proprietors of The Bell Farm, N.W.T., Canada, propose opening an agricultural College, in connection with their farm. A limited number of STUDENTS – say 15, will be received., For full particulars apply within the next two weeks, to the undersigned. - W.R. Bell (General Manager, Bell Farm), First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, 4th February, 1885"

67 kb

First Avenue Hote, High Holborn, London, England: photo 1919; bombed 1940.

1885 – Feb. 12, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

Indian Head. A.J. Osment ran as councillor of new municipality of Indian Head. Lost. **check for details**

1885 – Feb. 13 – *London Times* – report on late 1884 visit to Bell Farm by James Edmunds, M.D., London (almost identical to his May 15, 1885 published report)

PRESS NOTICES.

Times

WHEAT-GROWING.

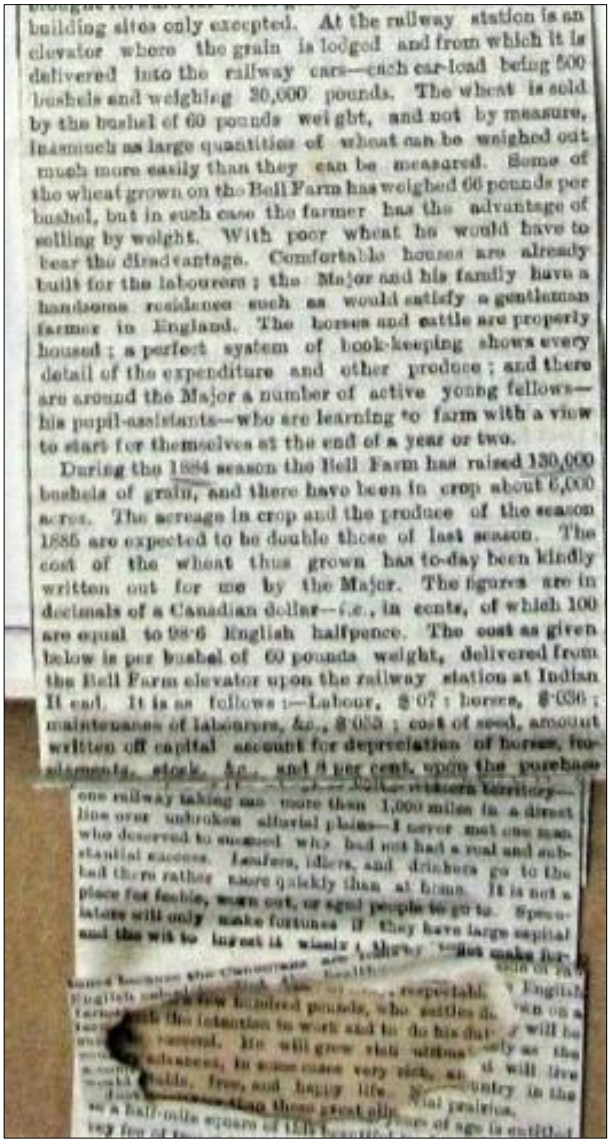
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—It will interest many readers to know that Major Bell, the projector and present worker of the great Canadian wheat farm of 100 square miles, is now in London on a short visit. At the recent expedition of the British Association to Canada those of its members who got so far west were entertained at the Bell Farm and were driven over the great plains of wheat which were then on the point of being harvested. The facts witnessed were seen to have an important bearing upon the supplies of wheat for our people in England, and upon the chances of those of our farmers who still propose to grow cereals or pulse.

Last autumn I devoted a long holiday of two months chiefly to visiting the farmers who are now dotted all [illegible] spent a week in wandering about at the end of the [illegible] of the Canadian Pacific Railway [illegible] Rocky Mountains of British Columbia; I spent another week in the city of Winnipeg; I went about among the still living old Scotch settlers who went out with Lord Selkirk, and who still crop their original farms upon the beautiful banks of the Red River, where he so wisely located them; and, among other places, I visited the Bell Farm. I have also had the advantage of prolonged conversations with Major Bell during his present visit to London. The Major tells me that he would gladly attend any meeting to give an account of his agricultural operations and to answer inquiries; but as only a few people can hope to come into personal contact with him, I may, perhaps, shortly call attention to the data with which we are now furnished.

The Bell Farm contains 100 square miles of rich alluvial land, practically all fit to put the plough into, and perfectly unencumbered by timber. Its location is in Assiniboia, upon the Canadian Pacific Railway, 312 miles west of Winnipeg. It has its own railway station, which is known as Indian Head, and the whole of this land is being rapidly brought forward for wheat-growing—the school and public building sites only excepted. At the railway station is an

89 kb



building sites only excepted. At the railway station is an elevator where the grain is lodged and from which it is delivered into the railway cars—each car-load being 500 bushels and weighing 30,000 pounds. The wheat is sold by the bushel of 60 pounds weight, and not by measure, inasmuch as large quantities of wheat can be weighed out much more easily than they can be measured. Some of the wheat grown on the Bell Farm has weighed 66 pounds per bushel, but in such case the farmer has the advantage of selling by weight. With poor wheat he would have to bear the disadvantage. Comfortable houses are already built for the labourers; the Major and his family have a handsome residence such as would satisfy a gentleman farmer in England. The horses and cattle are properly housed; a perfect system of book-keeping shows every detail of the expenditure and other produce; and there are around the Major a number of active young fellows—his pupil-assistants—who are learning to farm with a view to start for themselves at the end of a year or two.

During the 1884 season the Bell Farm has raised 130,000 bushels of grain, and there have been in crop about 6,000 acres. The acreage in crop and the produce of the season 1885 are expected to be double those of last season. The cost of the wheat thus grown has to-day been kindly written out for me by the Major. The figures are in decimals of a Canadian dollar—i.e., in cents, of which 100 are equal to 98·6 English halfpence. The cost as given below is per bushel of 60 pounds weight, delivered from the Bell Farm elevator upon the railway station at Indian Head. It is as follows:—Labour, $·07; horses, $·036; maintenance of labourers, &c., $·055; cost of seed, amount written off capital account for depreciation of horses, implements, stock, &c., and 8 per cent. upon the purchase

one railway taking me more than 1,000 miles in a direct line over unbroken alluvial plains—I never met one man who deserved to succeed who had not had a real and substantial success. Loafers, idlers, and drinkers go to the bad there rather more quickly than at home. It is not a place for feeble, worn out, or aged people to go to. Spec[illegible] lators will only make fortunes if they have large capital and the wit to invest it wisely; there [illegible] not make for

[illegible] respectable [illegible] English [illegible] a few hundred pounds, who settles d[illegible] on a [illegible] with the intention to work and to do his dut[illegible] will be [illegible] prosperous. He will grow rich within [illegible] only as the [illegible] advances, in some cases very rich, and it will live [illegible] fresh, free, and happy life [illegible] country in the [illegible] these great plains. [illegible] prairies.

101 kb

1885 – Feb. 18 – *Pall Mall Gazette,* London – Major Bell and Professor Tanner interviewed by Robert Miller Christy.

THE FUTURE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD."

AN INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR BELL.

The question of wheat production in the Canadian North-west has lately been receiving considerable attention, especially with reference to its effect on English farming; and we have taken the opportunity, therefore, of the presence in London of Major Bell, the manager of what is probably the biggest farming concern in the world, to learn the results of his experience and his views of its probable effect on the mother country. The Bell Farm, belonging to the Prince Albert Colonization Company, consists of 54,000 acres, of which some 17,000 were under cultivation last year. By a fortunate coincidence, Professor Tanner was with Major Bell when our representative called. Professor Tanner knows Major Bell's farm well, and was able to confirm in every particular what its manager said. The gist of the conversation, which well deserves the attention of all who are interested in British agriculture, is given below:—

THE BIGGEST YIELD AT THE LOWEST COST.

"When Professor Tanner went over the farm with me in the summer of 1883 I showed him our best 1,000 acres, and he estimated their yield at 35 bushels an acre. The Professor was a true prophet, for those 1,000 acres actually yielded exactly 35,000 bushels. Our average yield over the whole farm is from 25 to 30 bushels an acre. As to the cost of production, the figures I am going to give you are strictly inclusive; not only are labour and maintenance of all kinds reckoned in, but an allowance of 20 per cent. is made for depreciation of stock and implements. I want to insist on this because some of my friends when they publish their figures are not quite so accurate: one will leave out seeding, another will make no allowance for depreciation. Well, when all is told—and how we tell it I will show you in a minute or two—it appears that we can get our wheat ready for shipment at a cost of 34 cents per bushel—that is, nearly 1s. 5d. of your money. The only thing to be added is the freight; and as to that, the manager of the Central Pacific Railroad—which will be the biggest monopoly in the world before long—authorizes me to say that next year the cost of freight from Winnipeg to Liverpool will be not more than 1s. a bushel. To this you must add one or ten cents a bushel for the transit to Winnipeg, so as to bring up the freight from Indian Head station (in the centre of the farm lands) to Liverpool to 11s. a quarter. Those are the facts; I leave you to draw your conclusions."

HOW IT IS DONE.—GOOD LAND GRATIS.

Considering that at this rate Canadian wheat could be landed at Liverpool at 22s. or 23s. a quarter, and remembering that the English farmer cries out when he cannot get more than 33s. a quarter, our representative drew the conclusion that the outlook for the British farmer was not very lively. Major Bell hastened, however, to add that no particular credit was due to the Canadian farmers for these remarkable results. "In the first place," he said, "we have no rent to pay. Our land has cost us about 6s. an acre, in fee simple; but then you must remember that we had to go 'far west' for it. All the good land near railways has been taken already, and costs now about 50s. an acre. But two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us. And the land is as good as it is cheap, and we not only have no rent to pay, but we have no manure bill to run up. And then there's the climate, which is just as good as it can be. Those are good solid advantages to start with."

"THE BLESSINGS OF PROTECTION."

"What about taxes? Why, they are a mere bagatelle, amounting perhaps to 2d. an acre." "But does that include the taxes you pay in the shape of protection?" asked our representative. "Protection," replied Major Bell, "is another of our advantages. Take our farm implements; well, Professor Tanner will tell you that I am quite right in calling them the best in the world, for they, like the land, are as cheap as they are good. I can even show you how the thing works. When the duty was first imposed on agricultural implements we certainly had uphill work. They were so dear that we could not afford to buy them from the States; but at the same time we could not make them properly for ourselves. The Americans had had plenty of experience in working prairie lands and knew exactly what was wanted; we did not. Well, but what happened? Why every big American manufacturer set up a branch house in Canada, and at the present moment we can buy all the implements in our own country (and Canadian 'binders,' in particular, are the best in the world) at American prices. What is the difference between taking off duties and removing them? Why just this: that all the capital employed in manufacturing the implements circulates in the Dominion instead of in the States, and in a Canadian that is just all the difference in the world. In an old country we have free trade by all means; but in a new one depend upon it protection is the greatest of blessings."

FARMING BY TELEPHONE.

"Cheap and good land—unlimited sun—bountiful protection: those are natural advantages of a new country, and you can never match us there. There is one that is somewhat novel perhaps in our management is the employment of the telephone. At eight o'clock every evening I press my button, put myself into communication with my divisional foremen. I give them exactly ten minutes each, but in such case the others hear what I am saying though they are 4 or 5 miles apart both from me and from one another. Every man must carry out my orders, right or wrong; if he does not, he loses. Every horse, too, has its appointed task set every evening, 16 to 20 miles a day: but here I am more merciful, and if a horse gives out, why the foreman only has to go to his telephone and tell me of it and I reduce the day's task, taking off two miles a day perhaps. The whole machine is worked in this way as easily by a single overseer as if it were a matter of a hundred acres; and all the discussion about the comparative advantages of large and small farming is really rather out of date, for the telephone enables you to combine them both. The telephone—and federation, which is quite as applicable, I assure you, to farms as to States. Every 320 acres has a cottage on it, with a man living in it rent free and having charge of three horses. This system gives us an immense pull over other farms, such as Dalrymple's, the next biggest to ours, which are worked from a single centre, so that a team will have to go four or five miles perhaps to get to its work: that is sheer waste. These homesteads are grouped into divisions, of which there are five on the farm altogether, with a divisional foreman responsible for each. The men employed in each division report every day to the foreman, and the foremen report to me. Local matters are left to them; imperial concerns are reserved for me at my telephone."

"THEIR STRENGTH IS TO SIT STILL."

"The telephone enables us to annihilate space, machinery to economize labour. It is the horses who work our farm, not the men. The horses draw the seeder, the harrow, the plough, the binder; the men merely sit behind and guide the team: 'their strength is to sit still.' This is the secret of much of our success, as you will soon see. For instance, there is an idea in some quarters that it may be possible to run India against the North-West, on the ground of the cheapness of labour in the former country. Well, we give our men long hours—from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M.; but then, as I have told you, it is very light work, and we pay them high wages. I am all for high wages. To get good men and give them good wages is what pays best in the long run. We pay on the average about 30s. a week (and board free), and in India they say they can get labour for 1d. a day. But then just look at the difference in the quantity of labour required. One of our 'binders,' for instance, does the work of fifty Indians, and we run altogether fifty binders, of an aggregate '2,500-Indian power.' And, besides, think how much we gain too by the speed of our work in being able to take the grain just exactly at the best time. Our 190 men can work some eight hundred or one thousand acres a day. Your Indian may be all very well at cotton, but I doubt if he will ever beat us at wheat."

FARMING AND BOOK-KEEPING.

"I said just now," continued Major Bell, "that you might rely on my figures, and now I will tell you why." Major Bell then disclosed a "Labour Return on the Bell Farm"—an elaborate summary of every item of expenditure during the year, which we wish we had room to reproduce entire, for it could be relied upon (as Professor Tanner said) to "make the hair of any farmer in the three kingdoms stand on end." Every evening when the work in the fields is over Bell Farm becomes one vast book-keeping establishment. Each homestead reports its expenditure to the divisional foreman, and the divisional foremen report the totals to headquarters. Each week the headquarters staff tabulates the returns into a weekly sheet. The weekly returns are next tabulated into a monthly return, and finally the monthly returns into an annual return. Here is a small section of the return for the year 1883-84, which Major Bell kindly lent us:—

	Wages.			Incidentals.		
	Men.	Maintenance.	Horse.	Men.	Maintenance.	Horse.
November	318.83	66	96	40.81	15	...
December	27.18	6.50	12	57.94	11	...
January	...	...	...	36.57	11	...
February	6.52	.50	6	38.11	12.50	...
March	253.89	27.40	94	86.69	22.50	...
April	1,453.58	538.94	1,160.50	183.54	33	...
May	681.02	78.75	475.50	82	27	...
June	...	...	...	73.93	33.75	1
July	...	...	...	103.85	41.45	8
August	...	...	...	119.23	45.88	8
September	2,215.11	502.67	818	134.43	46.50	...
October	2,528.41	1,201.45	722.50	83.20	31.50	...
Total	6,913.73	2,875.37	3,072.50	952.43	337.91	17

The figures are of course in dollars and cents. There are altogether twenty-seven heads, including, besides "wheat" and "implements" given above such things as "flax," "oats," "seeds," "telephone," "wood," and so forth. The last stage of all is to apportion the expenditure thus summarized either to (1) capital account on the one hand, or to (2) the three staples, wheat, flax, and oats respectively, on the other, and it is thus that Major Bell is able to say exactly, dividing the totals thus obtained by his output, what his cost of production is. Decidedly, if this kind of book-keeping is desirable, the land of England wants "some brains" as well as "more money" to be put into it. And Major Bell holds that his system is not merely desirable, but essential. "Why, it is the conclusion," he said, "of the whole matter. Depend upon it that in these days farming can only be made to pay by being placed on a thoroughly business basis. The reason why so many farmers lose money is because they can never tell at a given moment what they are spending: they lose money because they don't know it till it's already lost. The cure lies for English farmers, it seems to me, is, Can they hope to compete with Canadian wheat produced at a cost of 22s. to 23s. a quarter (profit not counted)? If not, why do they not come over and join us in Canada?"

THE OUTLOOK FOR ENGLISH FARMERS.

"This year, indeed," Major Bell added, "we shall not get more than three or four million bushels; but then you must remember that two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us, and in five years more we shall be sending you fifteen or twenty millions. The wheat trade of the world is inevitably falling into our hands. Twenty

253 kb

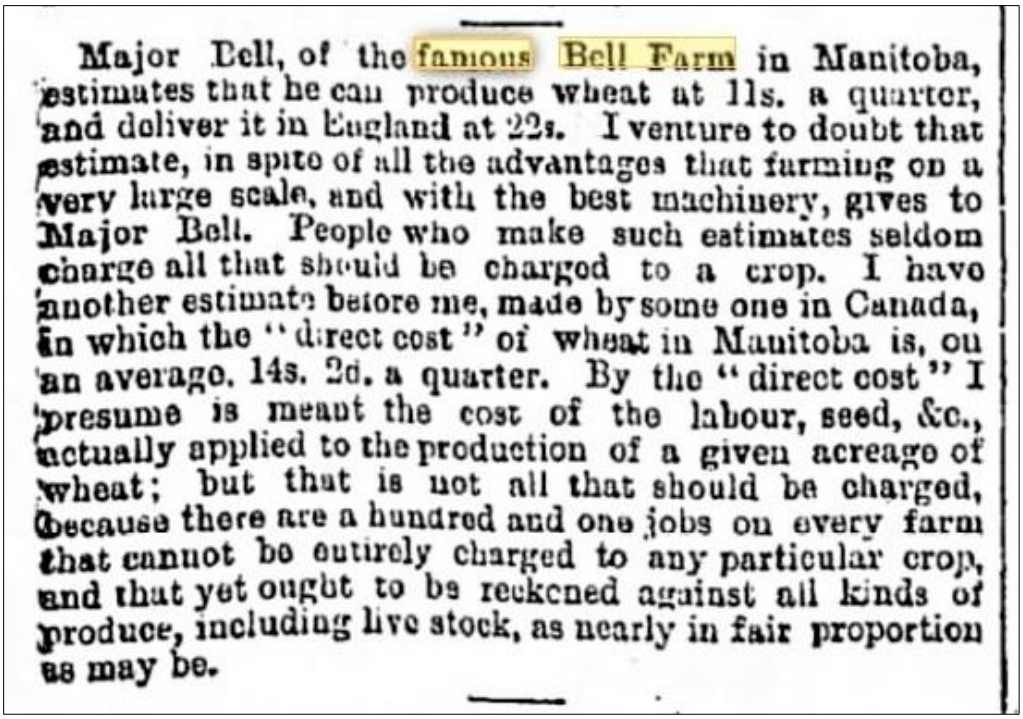
1885 – Feb. 19 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – (Fifty-Years Ago – Feb. 19, 1935)

> "There was talk of establishing a mechanics; institute in Winnipeg. Major Bell, of the mammoth Bell farm at Indian Head, had decided to convert the large hotel on the farm into an agricultural college, and the major, passing through Winnipeg, stated to the Free Press that he was on his way to the Old Country to bring out students and instructors."

1885 – Feb. 19 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 10 – Major Bell off to England to get students and instructors.

> "Major Bell has gone to England. The company has decided to convert the large hotel on the farm into an agricultural college. Mr. Bell has gone to bring out students and instructors and make other arrangements. Eberts, the secretary of the company, is here."

1885 – Feb. 21 – *Leeds Mercury Weekly Supplement*, p. 20 – Reporter questions Bell's farm cost estimates (also Feb. 23)



Major Bell, of the famous Bell Farm in Manitoba, estimates that he can produce wheat at 11s. a quarter, and deliver it in England at 22s. I venture to doubt that estimate, in spite of all the advantages that farming on a very large scale, and with the best machinery, gives to Major Bell. People who make such estimates seldom charge all that should be charged to a crop. I have another estimate before me, made by some one in Canada, in which the "direct cost" of wheat in Manitoba is, on an average, 14s. 2d. a quarter. By the "direct cost" I presume is meant the cost of the labour, seed, &c., actually applied to the production of a given acreage of wheat; but that is not all that should be charged, because there are a hundred and one jobs on every farm that cannot be entirely charged to any particular crop, and that yet ought to be reckoned against all kinds of produce, including live stock, as nearly in fair proportion as may be.

131 kb

1885 – Feb. 23 – *House of Commons Debates*, p. 205-206 – Bell Farm Squatters:

and steam, the mails would reach their destination. But, however it may be, it seems an extraordinary thing that this effort to make more expeditious transport of the mails should end so frequently, as I am told it does, in the very reverse.

Motion agreed to.

SQUATTERS IN THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY.

Mr. LISTER moved for:

Return of copies of all correspondence between Mr. Taylor, M.P. for South Leeds, and Mr. Wood, M.P. for Brockville, or either of them, and the Government, respecting the claim for compensation of William McLeod, J. D. Jewitt, S. M. Stiles, John Stevenson and R. R. Coleman, or any of them, squatters in the Qu'Appelle Valley, together with copy of all reports made by the said Taylor or Wood, and either of them, respecting the said claims. Also, all correspondence between Mr. Gordon, Dominion land agent, Calgary, and the Government, and all reports made by said Gordon to the Government, respecting said claims, or any of them; also, copy of any award made in regard to said claims, or any of them.

He said: in connection with this matter I may say that I have no personal knowledge whatever of the subject matter of the motion, and I shall content myself with making a statement just as I have received it. The parties mentioned in the motion, along with others, were squatters in the Qu'Appelle Valley, on property now owned by the Bell Farming Company. According to the statement given to me these squatters went upon the land prior to the time the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company became the proprietors; in other words, the rights of the squatters were better in law—so they believe—than the title of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company. There was some difficulty about the squatters. The company were anxious to get them off, and the squatters having gone in and selected the lands as homesteads, were desirous of staying there. Whatever their right may have been, neither the Government nor the company undertook to enforce what they conceived to be their rights in law against these squatters. Some time during the Session of 1884 a person representing and further, they complain that they have not been paid the amount awarded to them. Now, whether these gentlemen were representing the Government or not, I am not in a position to say. These people hold that they were doing so, or they would not have entered into the arbitration. They supposed they were sent there in compliance with a promise made to them in the preceding Session. At all events, the award was entered into, and they say it has not been carried out according to its terms. If such is the case, I think there is no doubt that these men have not been properly dealt with. I think that the Government, on the facts being represented, will be inclined to do to these men what is right. In the case of the pioneer settlers of this country I feel that neither this Government nor any Government is justified in doing anything which is not perfectly right, and if anything has been misrepresented—I do not pretend to say that these gentlemen did so—but if these settlers misunderstood the character in which these gentlemen went out to them, I think the Government should be prepared to give effect to the understanding of the settlers. I feel that nothing more is necessary than to bring the matter to the attention of the House and the Government, in order that these people may be justly, fairly, and equitably dealt with.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There can be no objection to the motion, and the papers will be brought down. The House will then see from the papers exactly what took place. Neither of the gentlemen mentioned who acted as arbitrators acted as the officers of the Government, or at the request of the Government; they acted as arbitrators between the Qu'Appelle Farming Company and the squatters. Some of these men had no legal or equitable claim. They went out, believing that the company were going to have a large tract of land, and to see what they could make out of it—a very common trick in the North-West. They set up exorbitant claims, thinking that either the Government or the Qu'Appelle Company would pay them for their real or imaginary improvements. However, some of them put

Part 1 of 4

these squatters came to Ottawa and was given to understand that their claims would be settled justly and fairly. On that assurance he returned to the North-West, and during the following spring the gentlemen named in the resolution appeared on the scene in the Qu'Appelle Valley. They are, of course, warm supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite, and the statement made to me is, that they were authorized by the Government to effect a settlement of the claims of the settlers. I do not vouch for the correctness of that statement; I merely, as I stated before, give it as it was given to me. They were induced to enter into an arbitration suggested by these gentlemen, upon the distinct promise, as they say, that they would be permitted to take up other homesteads in other portions of the country, without doing any duties; that the full time that they would have to live upon the homestead would be allowed to them, and that a patent would be issued to them; further, that they would be allowed to pre-empt and would be given three years for the payment of their pre-emption. They say that on those representations they consented to the arbitration. An arbitration did take place, and I believe an award was made by Mr. Taylor, M. P. for Leeds, and Mr. Wood, M. P. for Brockville. That award, I believe, covers the points I have stated, namely, that they were to get their homesteads free, without having to live on the homestead, to be taken for for any length of time, and to have their pre-emption free; and they were also to be allowed certain damages, to which they were entitled, for improvements they had made on the place. Payment under that award was to be made at a fixed time; no payment was made. It is claimed by the settlers that the Government repudiated the arrangement made by the arbitrators, that they insist on these people having to live on the place some eight months, and on the usual and ordinary terms, so far as the pre-emption is concerned; their cases or grievances into the hands of one of these gentlemen—the hon. member for Leeds. These two gentlemen went up there, one acting as arbitrator for the settlers, with their consent, and the other acting on behalf of the Qu'Appelle Company. They made an equitable award, I suppose, between the Qu'Appelle Company and the settlers. I have no doubt they have acted impartially, and have no reason to doubt that the award is satisfactory to most of the settlers. I believe there are only two or three of the whole of them who object, and they object because they were found not to have had either an equitable, a legal, or a moral right.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). My name having been alluded to by the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister), I feel called upon to offer a few words in explanation. Over a year since a gentleman named Johnson appeared in Ottawa, representing certain parties known as squatters in the Qu'Appelle Valley. At the same time, Major Bell, the manager of the Bell Farming Company, was also in Ottawa. Before that there had been disputes between certain squatters and the manager of the Bell Farming Company, it having been claimed by the squatters that they were in possession of the land there before the grant was made to the company, which statement was denied by the company. Neither party, as has been truly said, ever entered an action at law, on the one part to assert their right, or on the other, to eject the squatters from the soil. My hon. friend, Mr. Taylor, the member for South Leeds, had been acting for the squatters, three or four of them having come from the riding he represents. Major Bell, as many of you know, is an old Brockville man, and I acted in the capacity of his solicitor for some years. Well, it was proposed, either by the person acting for the squatters, or by the company, I forget which, that the questions in dispute between the company

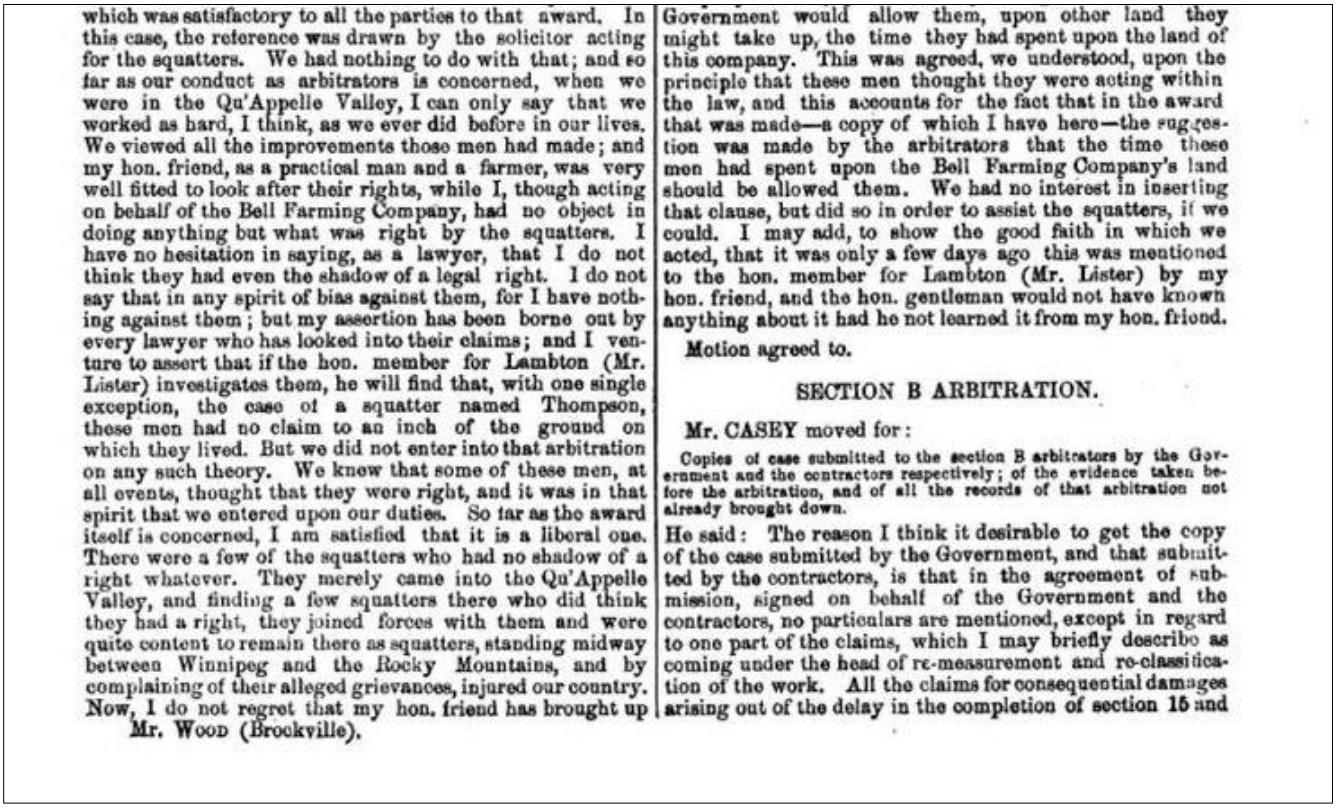
Part 2 of 4

and the squatters should be referred to arbitration. At that time the squatters selected the hon. member for South Leeds, because he had taken a very active part in trying to get for them all the concessions from the company he could, and in laying before the Government their alleged rights. I having acted for Major Bell for some years, as I have stated, he very naturally asked me if I would act as arbitrator, in the event of their not agreeing upon the terms. I consented to do so, not supposing at the time that it would be necessary for us to visit the North-West in order to settle the differences in question. I supposed that the evidence which had been taken, I think by Mr. Stephenson, the colonisation agent there, would have been used, or that the squatters would have made declarations and sent them down here, and that in that way we should have been enabled to adjudicate upon their claims. However, it was found necessary that Mr. Taylor and myself should go up there, view the premises and the improvements these men had made, see personally for ourselves the ground of their complaints, and look into, as far as we could, the rights of each of the parties. Now, Mr. Speaker, I knew nothing of the Government whatever in this transaction. I had no communication, one way or the other, with the Government or with any official of the Government; and although it is the right of any hon. member of this House to move for returns, I question whether it is the right of any hon. member to even intimate, simply on the strength of a letter from a dissatisfied party to an award, that another hon. member of this House has been connected with the Government in a transaction of this kind or any other, because that is a very serious matter. I, as a lawyer, would be very poorly qualified to represent my position as such at the bar, if I did not know that that was coming very close to the line of a violation of the Independence of Parliament Act. I had no more to do with the Government in that transaction than I had with any individual outside of this House; and the same can be said of my hon. friend, Mr. Taylor. Now, Sir, I do not know that an award was ever yet made this question. So far as I am concerned, I am satisfied that every scrap of paper relating to our conduct in connection with it should be printed and laid before the public, then it will be found that the squatters on the Bell Farm have been fairly dealt with by the arbitrators.

Mr. LISTER. I desire to say to my hon. friend who has just spoken that I have no knowledge myself of the matters referred to in the motion. As I understand, it is the right of every man to have his grievances, or his supposed grievances, brought before the Government, and it is the duty of a representative to bring these matters before the House and the country. Now, the hon. gentleman has stated that he was not acting with the Government; that he had no communication with the Government or any official of the Government. I am bound to take his answer; but it is somewhat remarkable that the award these hon. gentlemen made provides that lands belonging to the Government shall be given to these squatters. If there was no authority for it, why was that a portion of the award? My hon. friend says it is not in good taste for me to refer to the position he occupied there. I cannot agree with him; I take issue with him on that point. While I do not charge him with having been guilty of any impropriety—I can scarcely believe he would be; I am bound to take his word for that—I say I have, at the same time, a perfect right to make this statement fully, fairly and frankly, as I think I have done.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). If my hon. friend will allow me, I will mention now what I omitted to say when on my feet before. I never, to any one of these squatters, represented that we were acting for the Government. It never entered my mind to do so, because it would be quite contrary to the fact; and so far as the recommendation made by my hon. friend and myself with regard to these squatters, and the claim they should have to other lands, is concerned, we understood that the position the Government took was that if the squatters would settle their difficulties with the company and agree upon whatever damages the company should pay them, if any damages there were, the

Part 3 of 4:



which was satisfactory to all the parties to that award. In this case, the reference was drawn by the solicitor acting for the squatters. We had nothing to do with that; and so far as our conduct as arbitrators is concerned, when we were in the Qu'Appelle Valley, I can only say that we worked as hard, I think, as we ever did before in our lives. We viewed all the improvements those men had made; and my hon. friend, as a practical man and a farmer, was very well fitted to look after their rights, while I, though acting on behalf of the Bell Farming Company, had no object in doing anything but what was right by the squatters. I have no hesitation in saying, as a lawyer, that I do not think they had even the shadow of a legal right. I do not say that in any spirit of bias against them, for I have nothing against them; but my assertion has been borne out by every lawyer who has looked into their claims; and I venture to assert that if the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) investigates them, he will find that, with one single exception, the case of a squatter named Thompson, these men had no claim to an inch of the ground on which they lived. But we did not enter into that arbitration on any such theory. We knew that some of these men, at all events, thought that they were right, and it was in that spirit that we entered upon our duties. So far as the award itself is concerned, I am satisfied that it is a liberal one. There were a few of the squatters who had no shadow of a right whatever. They merely came into the Qu'Appelle Valley, and finding a few squatters there who did think they had a right, they joined forces with them and were quite content to remain there as squatters, standing midway between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, and by complaining of their alleged grievances, injured our country. Now, I do not regret that my hon. friend has brought up

Mr. WOOD (Brockville).

Government would allow them, upon other land they might take up, the time they had spent upon the land of this company. This was agreed, we understood, upon the principle that these men thought they were acting within the law, and this accounts for the fact that in the award that was made—a copy of which I have here—the suggestion was made by the arbitrators that the time these men had spent upon the Bell Farming Company's land should be allowed them. We had no interest in inserting that clause, but did so in order to assist the squatters, if we could. I may add, to show the good faith in which we acted, that it was only a few days ago this was mentioned to the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) by my hon. friend, and the hon. gentleman would not have known anything about it had he not learned it from my hon. friend.

Motion agreed to.

SECTION B ARBITRATION.

Mr. CASEY moved for:

Copies of case submitted to the section B arbitrators by the Government and the contractors respectively; of the evidence taken before the arbitration, and of all the records of that arbitration not already brought down.

He said: The reason I think it desirable to get the copy of the case submitted by the Government, and that submitted by the contractors, is that in the agreement of submission, signed on behalf of the Government and the contractors, no particulars are mentioned, except in regard to one part of the claims, which I may briefly describe as coming under the head of re-measurement and re-classification of the work. All the claims for consequential damages arising out of the delay in the completion of section 15 and

Part 4 of 4

1885 – *Nor-West Farmer* – Vol., 4, No. 1 – check for details

1885 – March 5 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "**COMMUNICATUIONS. Indian Head**. It is said that the large hotel here is to be made use of as an agricultural college. How happy some of our farmers would be if they could only get hold of a pupil paying one hundred pounds premium and five dollars a week for his board. The college will be in connection with the Bell Farm; but a good many people seem rather doubtful whether a thorough knowledge of scientific farming is likely to be acquired on a farm of which the manager is an ex-lumber merchant, and the foreman is an ex-policeman."

1885 – March 7 – *The Tasmanian,* Launceston, Tasmania - p. 10 – *FIELD* reporter Robert Miller Christy's Bell Farm article – fences with barbed wire – Christy visited the Bell Farm on Aug. 20, 1884 and signed the Visitors Register - # 55-56.

THE BELL FARM, ASSINIBOIA

Mr. Robert Miller Christy writes to the *Field* an interesting decription of a visit paid to the above farm. At a time when the price of wheat is, not only apparently but actually, lower than it has ever been before, it will surely be a matter of great interest to English farmers and others to hear something of the gigantic scale on which preparations are being made to grow this cereal in the much-talked of Canadian North-west, as also something of the price at which it is confidently asserted this can be done.

In the early part of July last I had occasion to proceed from Winnipeg westward to Medicine Hat, on the Saskatchewan, and it was whilst upon this journey that I managed to spare a day for the purpose of carrying out a long-cherished design, which was to pay a visit to the "Bell Farm." The following fact are gleaned partly from notes made upon the spot, and partly from information since supplied by Major Bell.

The Bell Farm lies upon the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 312 miles west from Winnipeg, and close to the town and station of Indian Head, in the Territory of Assiniboia. It is the property of the Qu'appelle Valley Farming Company Limited, which was formed in the year 1881, but takes it name from its able manager, Major W. R. Bell, who resides upon the spot. The entire area contained within the boundaries of the farm is 64,000 acres, or 100 square miles; but of this a number of sections are the property of the Husdon's Bay Company, while others are reserved by Government for educational purposes, so that the area actually covered by the farm is not more than about 54,000 acres.

When, on the 29th of April, 1882, the company obtained possession of the land by special Act of Parliament, it lay more than two hundred miles distant from the nearest railway station. The conditions under which such a large tract was made over to a single private company were that the company should have the land at the exceedingly low price of 1¼ dols. (5s) per acre, on condition that not less than 4000 acres were to be broken and brought under cultivation annually for five years, or 20,000 acres in all; but these conditions have probably been found too irksome, for I understand that application is about to be made to Government for their cancellation. The general scheme of the company is to bring the land under cultivation, dividing it up into about 258 separate farms of 213 acres, each provided with a good house and buildings. These farms will then be offered for sale to the men who have charges of them, at a valuation price, payable in instalments over a term of years. At present the selling price is from 12 dols. to 20 dols. per acre. The whole of the land is intended ultimately for sale, though the home farm of about 20,000 acres might be retained by the company if found to be sufficiently profitable. In any case it is expected to be all under cultivation two years hence—i.e., at the end of 1886.

Roughly speaking, his system of farming, when complete will be as follows: Eeach "section," or square mile, will be divided into three portions of 213 acres each, one of which it is intended to fallow yearly. While the company retains possession of the land, a foreman will be set over about every twelve farms or four sections. I will next speak of what has been and is being done.

Part 1 of 6: 179 kb

Part 2 of 6: 158 kb summer fallow

The plough commenced to "break" the rich black prairie soil on June 15, 1882, and, before winter set in, 2400 acres were ready for cropping the following year. In the middle of August the farm buildings were commenced. As early as possible next spring one half of the broken area was sown with oats, and the other half with wheat. The latter gave an average yield of 19¼ bushels per acre, and such of it as was solid (local demand taking nearly the whole of it for seed) realised an average price of one cent over the dollar (4s 2½d) per bushel. Some of the later-sown wheat was injured by an early frost on the night of Sept. 7, which did a vast amount of damage, not only in the Canadian North-west, but also in many of the States of the Union much further to the south. In the same year (1883) 4600 additional acres were broken, making 7000 in all, and the following spring (1884) about 5500 acres were sown with wheat, 1200 with oats, and the remainder with flax. This crop was, of course, still on the ground at the time of my visit, and it was a really fine sight which the major was able to show me dur-ng the very enjoyable drive round his farm which he was kind enough to take me. The longest furrow to be seen was two miles in length; several single pieces of wheat covered more than 1000 acres each; while the largest extended to 1500 acres. In all directions ploughs were at work tearing up the splendid virgin soil, for an ad-ditional 5500 acres were to be broken

Part 3 of 6: 154 kb

before winter, and the entire year's plough-ing was expected to reach 12,000 acres.

The whole of the ploughing is done with horses, of which 193 are now kept. The major will not hear of steam being used, urging (with much force) that, as he would require just as many horses as he now keeps to sow and reap his crops, they may just as well do the ploughing also, instead of standing idle for a good portion of the year while the ploughing is being done by steam. The ploughs used are all sulkies and gang-ploughs, on which the men ride. Each turns more than one furrow to a depth of rather over three inches, and each is required to travel sixteen miles a day; indeed, it is said that twenty miles forms an average day's work when no accident occurs. The width of the furrows is from fourteen to sixteen inches. At the time of my visit forty-five ploughs were breaking over one hundred acres per day. Breaking is continued during the whole of the summer. After the sod has lain awhile to rot, the disc-harrows are passed over it diagonally, cutting it up into lozenge-shaped pieces, and leaving it ready for seeding first thing in the spring. "Back-setting" is dispensed with on the farm. As much as possible of the stubble-ploughing is done in the autumn, so that the seed may be got in the moment after the frost takes its departure in spring. Sowing is done with broadcast seeders, a kind of com-bination between drill and harrows. Last year twenty-two self-binders by Deering, of Chicago, were used in getting in the crops; but to these there have this year been added twenty-five more by an excellent Canadian firm, the Messrs. Harris, of Brantford, making forty-seven in all. About sixty head of cattle and some pigs are at present kept upon the farm. The barb wire, so common on the prairies, is largely used for fencing.

Part 4 of 6: 174 kb

To me the major's statements as to what it cost him to produce a bushel of wheat were of chief interest, as doubtless they will be to most readers. He assured me that, as near as he could calculate, the cost to him of growing and placing on the rail at Indian Head each bushel of wheat that he produces is from 30c. to 33c. (1s 3d to 1s 4½d), which he also estimates to be 40 per cent. lower than the cost to the average settler. Further, he says that not more than 7c. to 9c. (3½d to 4½d) per bushel is paid for manual labour. At the present time the freight from Indian Head to Montreal (1746 miles) is 32c. (1s 4d) per bushel, but it will be lower next year, and Major Bell is confident that when, two years hence, the whole of his home farm is under the plough he will be able to lay prime hard "Red Fyfe" wheat, of the excellent quality usually produced in the north-west, down in Liverpool at a cost price of 75c. (3s 1½d) per bushel, or 6dol. (25s) per quarter, or even lower.

Part 5 of 6: 117 kb

The following calculations, though they may not give any very valuable results, will be interesting, as showing the magni-tude of the operations which Major Bell carries on. A plough having a single share only, cutting 12in. wide, would require to travel eight and a quarter miles in order to plough an acre. If the whole of this year's ploughing were to be done with one such plough, it would require to travel 99,000 miles, or about four and one-eighth times round the globe, which would occupy nearly sixteen and a half years at the rate of two acres per day, or nearly thirty-three years if oxen were used, and one acre a day only were ploughed. If a single team were to have started to cut this year's crops with a 5ft.-swarth machine, and to have travelled twenty miles per day, they would have taken 577 days to accomplish the work. When the entire home farm is under cultivation, the estimated yield of wheat will be upwards of half a million bushels, which would require a train con-sisting of over one thousand of the ordinary grain-cars to carry it all away.

Part 6 of 6: 122 kb

[The same article was published in the *Launceston Examiner* on May 7, 1885, p. 6.]

1885 – March 12 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Letter from Ebznbo about Bell Farm, and mentions Mr. Spearman as Bell Farm foreman.

> **"Letters to the Editor. – [We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents. – Ed.]**
>
> **Indian Head.** To the Editor of the Vidette:
>
> We have in our midst an individual who undertakes to make personal attacks upon someone every week, especially members of the municipal board. It seems to be a tremendous grievance to his highly cultivated composition that the electors of Indian Head should elect such a lot of green men as he is pleased to call them. In places where I have lived in Ontario and Manitoba the Clerk was considered the proper person to publish the proceedings of the municipal board for the benefit of the electors; but no doubt, the Clerk has requested our worthy correspondent to report the proceedings for him, seeing that he has such a giant intellect, and is such a mighty man with the pen. And he goes on to tell us that the large hotel owned by the Bell Farming Company is going to be turned into an agricultural college, and also that a good many people are doubtful whether scientific farming can be acquired on a farm where the manager is an ex-lumber merchant and the foreman an ex-policeman. No doubt the manager and foreman were not born under such favourable circumstances as our correspondent – with a silver spoon in his mouth or a Latin grammar in their hand. Major Bell rose from a lumber merchant to manager of one of the largest farms in Minnesota, and the farm payed well under his management; and I consider it shows enterprise in the Major in rising to the position he now holds. As for the foreman, Mr. Spearman, I can say nothing, only he must have a little more energy now than some around the Head, or he would not be foreman of the Bell farm. He winds up his article by saying that chess is becoming very popular in the village, and that there are some fair players (one, I suppose he meant). Who plays chess? Why, our respected correspondent can be found, when he is not composing articles for the press with one of his much-despised municipal officers. Ebznbo

1885 – March 13 – *St. Paul Glove* – Bell Farm Flour Mill, erected by Pray Manufacturing

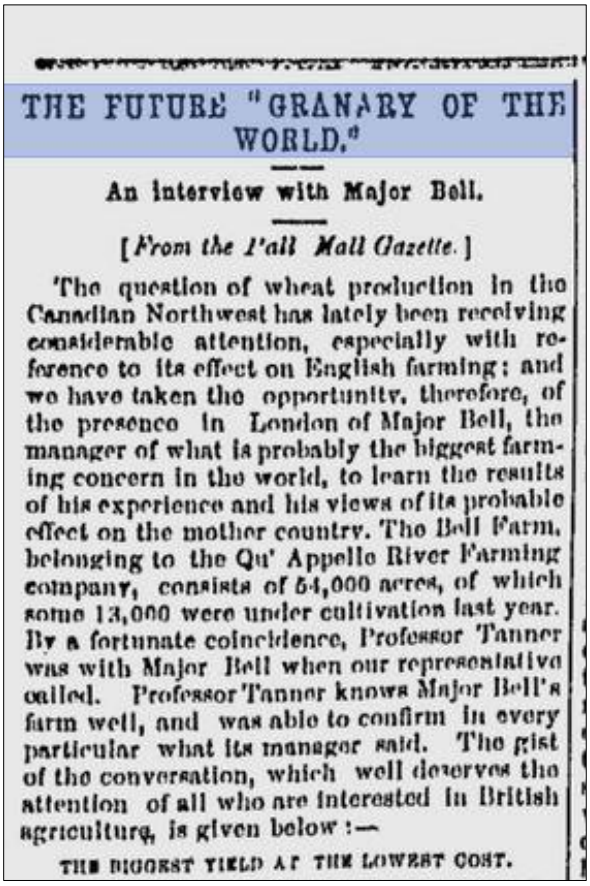
> "Quite a number of millwrights have lately gone out of the city, and as spring opens and millwright work increases outside, the number will undoubtedly increase. The Pray Manufacturing company this week sent a crew of eight to Indian Head, in Manitoba, where it is building a mill. Among the number was M. McDonald, foreman, and Messers. Griffin, Chapman, Rose, Collins and Griffin. . . . . "

1885 – *Aberdeen Press and Journal,* p. 9 (as report 11 May, 1937) – James Duncan, blacksmith – may also have worked as blacksmith at the Bell Farm, as he did at Qu'Appelle with the Transport Service headed by Major Bell:

> "Mr. James Duncan, who went to Canada in 1882, lived a life of great activity there and was prominent in business and other spheres. In the North-West Rebellion in 1885 he served as veterinary and blacksmith under Major Bell, of Indian Head, and saw much service. Settling in Melita, Manitoba, he established a farm implement business, gave excellent service in the Town Council, was President of the Board of

Trade, and was prominent in church work as an elder and Sunday school superintendent. He was a Justice of the Peace and a past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba of Oddfellows. Mr. Duncan, who was eighty years of age, is survived by Mrs. Duncan."

1885 – March 13 – *Montreal Gazette*, p. 7 – Interview with Major Bell (from *Pall Mall Gazette*) – in 11 parts



THE FUTURE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD."

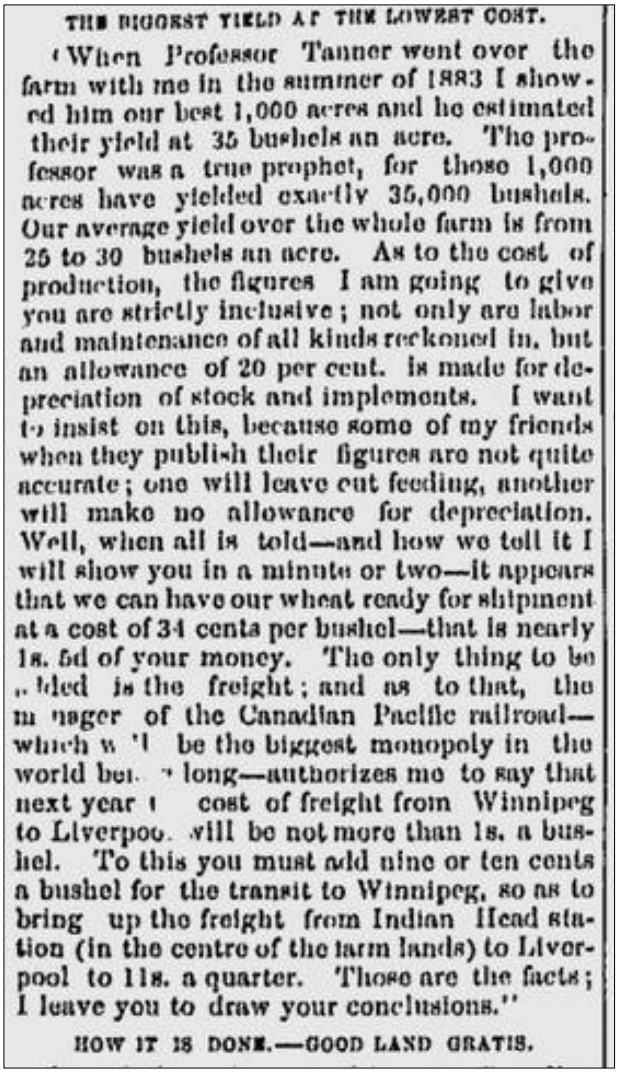
An interview with Major Bell.

[*From the Pall Mall Gazette.*]

The question of wheat production in the Canadian Northwest has lately been receiving considerable attention, especially with reference to its effect on English farming; and we have taken the opportunity, therefore, of the presence in London of Major Bell, the manager of what is probably the biggest farming concern in the world, to learn the results of his experience and his views of its probable effect on the mother country. The Bell Farm, belonging to the Qu' Appelle River Farming company, consists of 54,000 acres, of which some 13,000 were under cultivation last year. By a fortunate coincidence, Professor Tanner was with Major Bell when our representative called. Professor Tanner knows Major Bell's farm well, and was able to confirm in every particular what its manager said. The gist of the conversation, which well deserves the attention of all who are interested in British agriculture, is given below:—

THE BIGGEST YIELD AT THE LOWEST COST.

Part 1 of 11: 52 kb

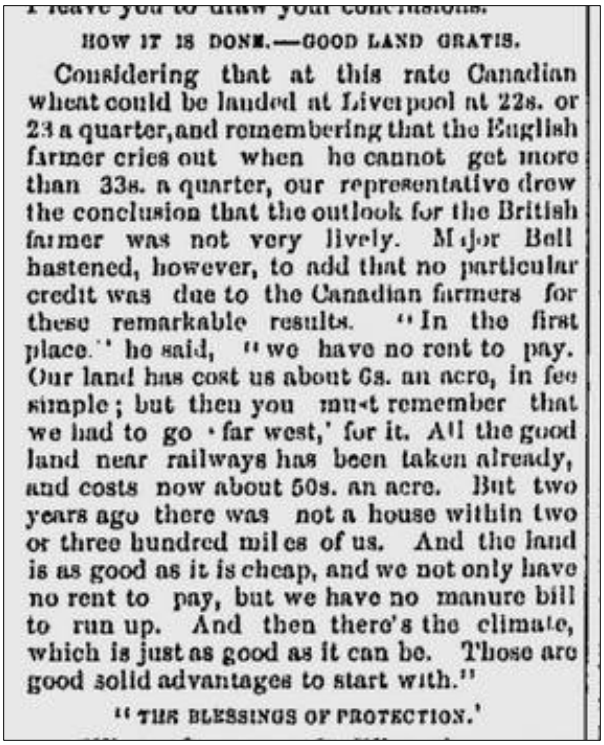


THE BIGGEST YIELD AT THE LOWEST COST.

"When Professor Tanner went over the farm with me in the summer of 1883 I showed him our best 1,000 acres and he estimated their yield at 35 bushels an acre. The professor was a true prophet, for those 1,000 acres have yielded exactly 35,000 bushels. Our average yield over the whole farm is from 25 to 30 bushels an acre. As to the cost of production, the figures I am going to give you are strictly inclusive; not only are labor and maintenance of all kinds reckoned in, but an allowance of 20 per cent. is made for depreciation of stock and implements. I want to insist on this, because some of my friends when they publish their figures are not quite accurate; one will leave out feeding, another will make no allowance for depreciation. Well, when all is told—and how we tell it I will show you in a minute or two—it appears that we can have our wheat ready for shipment at a cost of 34 cents per bushel—that is nearly 1s. 5d of your money. The only thing to be added is the freight; and as to that, the manager of the Canadian Pacific railroad—which will be the biggest monopoly in the world before long—authorizes me to say that next year the cost of freight from Winnipeg to Liverpool will be not more than 1s. a bushel. To this you must add nine or ten cents a bushel for the transit to Winnipeg, so as to bring up the freight from Indian Head station (in the centre of the farm lands) to Liverpool to 11s. a quarter. These are the facts; I leave you to draw your conclusions."

HOW IT IS DONE.—GOOD LAND GRATIS.

Part 2 of 11: 66 kb



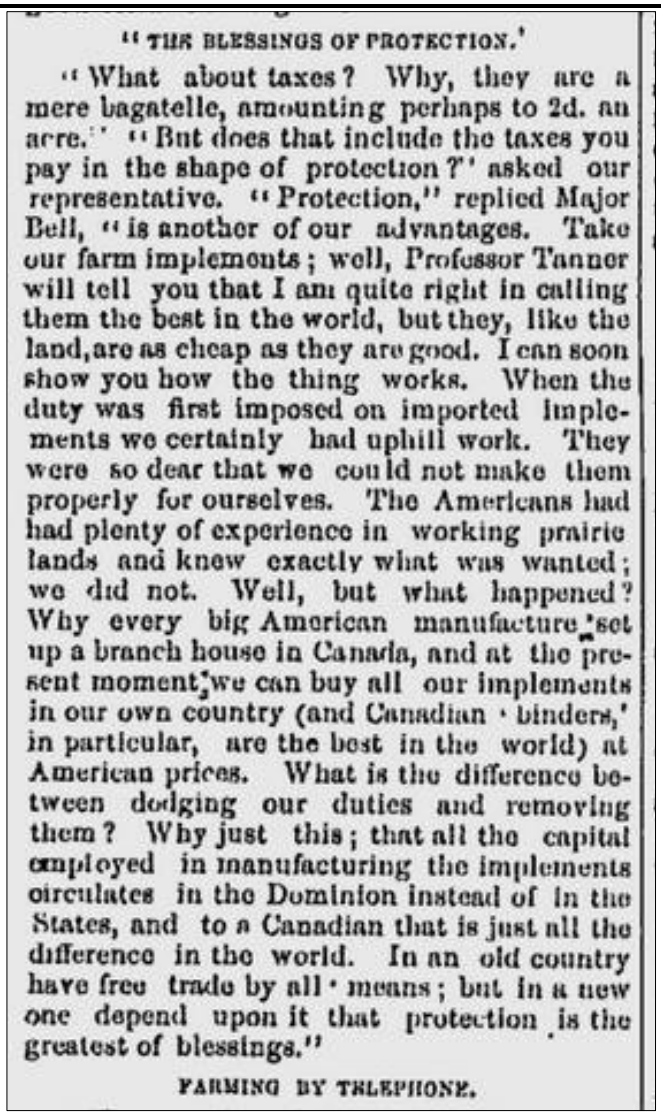
I leave you to draw your conclusions.

HOW IT IS DONE.—GOOD LAND GRATIS.

Considering that at this rate Canadian wheat could be landed at Liverpool at 22s. or 23 a quarter, and remembering that the English farmer cries out when he cannot get more than 33s. a quarter, our representative drew the conclusion that the outlook for the British farmer was not very lively. Major Bell hastened, however, to add that no particular credit was due to the Canadian farmers for these remarkable results. "In the first place," he said, "we have no rent to pay. Our land has cost us about 6s. an acre, in fee simple; but then you must remember that we had to go 'far west,' for it. All the good land near railways has been taken already, and costs now about 50s. an acre. But two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us. And the land is as good as it is cheap, and we not only have no rent to pay, but we have no manure bill to run up. And then there's the climate, which is just as good as it can be. Those are good solid advantages to start with."

"THE BLESSINGS OF PROTECTION."

Part 3 of 11: 50 kb



"THE BLESSINGS OF PROTECTION."

"What about taxes? Why, they are a mere bagatelle, amounting perhaps to 2d. an acre." "But does that include the taxes you pay in the shape of protection?" asked our representative. "Protection," replied Major Bell, "is another of our advantages. Take our farm implements; well, Professor Tanner will tell you that I am quite right in calling them the best in the world, but they, like the land, are as cheap as they are good. I can soon show you how the thing works. When the duty was first imposed on imported implements we certainly had uphill work. They were so dear that we could not make them properly for ourselves. The Americans had had plenty of experience in working prairie lands and knew exactly what was wanted; we did not. Well, but what happened? Why every big American manufacture set up a branch house in Canada, and at the present moment we can buy all our implements in our own country (and Canadian 'binders,' in particular, are the best in the world) at American prices. What is the difference between dodging our duties and removing them? Why just this; that all the capital employed in manufacturing the implements circulates in the Dominion instead of in the States, and to a Canadian that is just all the difference in the world. In an old country have free trade by all means; but in a new one depend upon it that protection is the greatest of blessings."

FARMING BY TELEPHONE.

Part 4 of 11: 64 kb

FARMING BY TELEPHONE.

"Cheap and good land—unlimited sunbountiful protection: those are the natural advantages of a new country, and you can never match us there. One feature that is somewhat novel perhaps in our management is the employment of the telephone. At eight o'clock every evening I press my button, and put myself into communication with my divisional foremen. I give them perhaps ten minutes each, but in each case the others hear what I am saying, though they are 4 or 5 miles apart both from one another; every man must carry out my orders, right or wrong; if he does not, off he goes. Every horse, too, has its appointed task set every evening, 16 to 20 miles a day; but here I am more merciful, and if a horse gives out, why the foreman only has to go to his telephone and tell me of it and I reduce the animal's task, taking off two miles a day perhaps. The whole machine is worked in this way as easily by a single overseer as if it were a matter of thirteen and not of 13,000 acres; and all the discussion about the comparative advantages of large and small farming is really rather out of date, for the telephone enables you to combine them both. The telephone—and federation, which is quite as applicable, I assure you, to farms as to States. Every 200 acres has a cottage on it, with a man living in it rent free and having charge of three horses. This system gives us an immense pull over other farms, such as Dalrymple's, the next biggest to ours, which are worked from a single centre, so that a team will have to go four or five miles perhaps to get to its work: that is sheer waste. These homesteads are grouped into divisions, of which there are five on the farm altogether, with a divisional foreman responsible for each. The men employed in each division report every day to the foreman, and the foremen report to me. Local matters are left to them; imperial concerns are reserved for me at my telephone."

"THEIR STRENGTH IS TO SIT STILL."

Part 5 of 11: 86 kb

"THEIR STRENGTH IS TO SIT STILL."

"The telephone enables us to annihilate space, machinery to economize labor. It is the horses who work our farm, not the men. They draw the seeder, the harrow, the plough, the binder; the men merely sit behind and guide the team: 'their strength is to sit still.' This is the secret of much of our success as you will soon see. For instance, there is an idea in some quarters that it may be possible to run India against the Northwest, on the ground of the cheapness of labor in the former country. Well, we give our men long hours—from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m.; but then, as I have told you, it is very light work, and we pay them high wages. I am all for high wages. To get good men and give them good wages is what pays best in

Part 6 of 11: 37 kb

the long run. We pay on the average about 30s. a week (and house free), and in India they say they can get labor for 1d. a day. But then just look at the difference in the quantity of labor required. One of our 'binders,' for instance, does the work of fifty Indians, and we run altogether fifty binders, of an aggregate "2,500 Indians power.' And, besides, think how much we gain too by the speed of our work in being able to take the grain just exactly at the best time. Our 100 men can work some eight hundred or one thousand acres a day. Your Indian may be all very well at cotton, but I doubt if he will ever beat us at wheat."

FARMING AND BOOK-KEEPING.

Part 7 of 11: 35 kb

FARMING AND BOOK-KEEPING.

"I said just now," continued Major Bell "that you might rely on my figures, and now I will tell you why." Major Bell disclosed a "Labor Return on the Bell Farm"—an elaborate summary of every item of expenditure during the year, which we wish we had room to reproduce entire, for it could be relied upon (as Professor Tanner said) to "make the hair of any farmer in the three kingdoms stand on end." Every evening when the work in the fields is over Bell Farm becomes one vast book-keeping establishment. Each homestead reports its expenditure to the divisional foreman, and the divisional foreman report the totals to headquarters. Each week the headquarters staff tabulates the returns into a weekly sheet. The weekly returns are next tabulated into a monthly return, and finally the monthly returns into an annual return. Here is a small section of the return for the year 1883-84, which Major Bell kindly lent us

	WHEAT		
	Man	Maint'e.	Horse.
November	318.83	66	98
December	27.18	6.50	12
January	..	..	..
February	6.52	.50	4
March	153.19	27.40	94
April	1,433.51	598.94	1,160.50
May	181.02	78.75	175.50
June			
July			
August			
September	2,295.11	972.87	866
October	2,528.41	1,202.41	722.50
Total	6,943.77	2,893.37	3,072.50

	IMPLEMENTS		
	Man.	Maint'e.	Horse.
November	40.81	13	
December	39.04	13	
January	36.57	12	
February	38.11	12 50	
March	86.69	22.50	
April	113.54	34	
May	82	27	..
June	79.40	33.75	1
July	103.85	41.45	8
August	119.23	43.88	8
September	120.43	46.00	
October	83.06	31.06	
Total	952 42	330.04	17

Part 8 of 11: 73 kb

Total	952 42	330.04	17

The figures are of course in dollars and cents. There are altogether twenty-seven heads, including, besides "wheat" and "implements" given above, such things as "flax" "oats," "roots" "telephone," "wood," and so forth. The last stage of all is to apportion the expenditure thus summarized either to (1) capital account on the one hand, or to (2) the three staples, wheat, flax, and oats respectively, on the other, and it is thus that Major Bell is able to say exactly, dividing the totals thus obtained by his output, what his cost of production is. Decidedly, if this kind of book-keeping is desirable, the land of England wants "more brains" as well as "more money" to be put into it. And Major Bell holds that his system is not merely desirable, but essential. "Why, it is the conclusion," he said, "of the whole matter. Depend upon it that in these days farming can only be made to pay by being placed on a thorough business basis. The reason why so many farmers lose money is because they can never tell at a given moment what they are spending; they lose money because they don't know it till it's already lost. The question for English farmers, it seems to me, is: Can they hope to compete with Canadian wheat produced at a cost of 22s. to 23s. a quarter (profit not counted)? If not, why do they not come over and join us in Canada?"

THE OUTLOOK FOR ENGLISH FARMERS.

Part 9 of 11: 63 kb

THE OUTLOOK FOR ENGLISH FARMERS.

"This year, indeed," Major Bell added, "we shall not send you more than three or four million bushels; but then you must remember that two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred miles of us, and in five years more we shall be sending you fifteen or twenty millions. The wheat trade of the world is inevitably falling into our hands. Twenty years ago the Eastern States from New York to Illinois were exporting wheat; to-day they are importing it; and in another twenty years the Western States which are now exporting will be our customers too. That is so far good for the English farmers, no doubt; but by that time we shall be able to serve you all, and you will be no better off. We have no iron, and we shall not see other industries encroaching on agriculture as is the case in the States. No, wheat is our specialty, and we shall come in time to supplying the world.

THE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD" AND THE COLONIAL QUESTION.

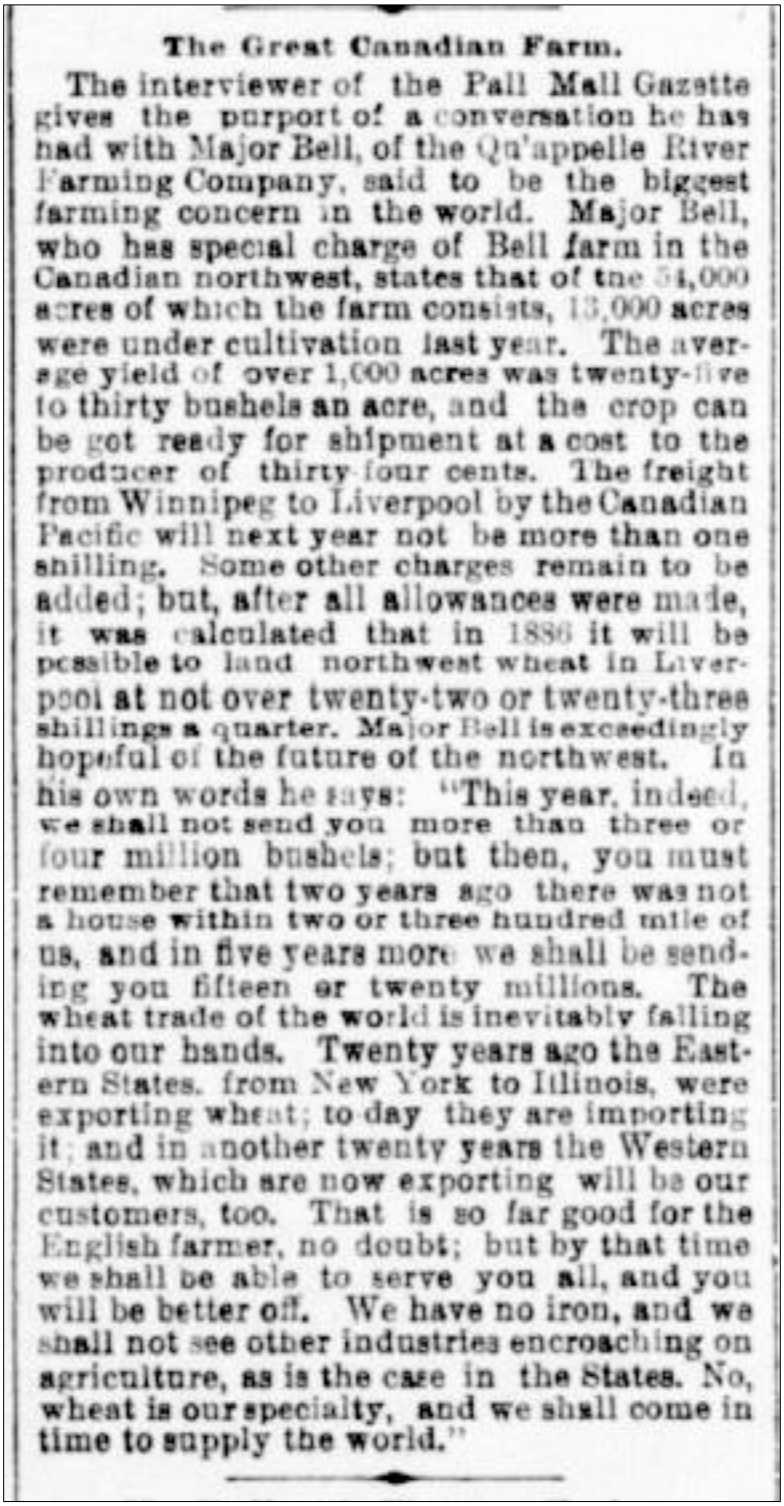
Part 10 of 11: 47 kb

THE "GRANARY OF THE WORLD" AND THE COLONIAL QUESTION.

"Perhaps you do not believe it: but then you must remember what Sir John Macdonald says, that the English know no more about Canada than a codfish does about conic sections. There is the ocean between you and us, and only an imaginary line between us and the United States; but Americans and Canadians are as different for all that as oil and water, and we should rise in arms against any encroachment of America as eagerly as we volunteer against any enemies of England. You have given us a succession of excellent Governor-Generals, that is something. Lord Lansdowne is doing capitally, and you never understood in England how much we liked Lord Lorne for his own sake; he was a worthy successor to Lord Dufferin, and what more need one say? But we want something more than good Governor-General, and Earl Gray's suggested colonial council of advice would be a capital beginning; but whatever scheme you may select, any price I should have thought was worth paying in order to preserve to the British Empire the granary of the world."

Part 11 of 11: 52 kb

1885 – March 18 – *Indianapolis State Sentinel, p.* 16 - Report on the Bell Farm (also in the *Martinsville Weekly Gazette*, p. 3 (Indiana)



The Great Canadian Farm.

The interviewer of the Pall Mall Gazette gives the purport of a conversation he has had with Major Bell, of the Qu'appelle River Farming Company, said to be the biggest farming concern in the world. Major Bell, who has special charge of Bell farm in the Canadian northwest, states that of the 54,000 acres of which the farm consists, 13,000 acres were under cultivation last year. The average yield of over 1,000 acres was twenty-five to thirty bushels an acre, and the crop can be got ready for shipment at a cost to the producer of thirty-four cents. The freight from Winnipeg to Liverpool by the Canadian Pacific will next year not be more than one shilling. Some other charges remain to be added; but, after all allowances were made, it was calculated that in 1886 it will be possible to land northwest wheat in Liverpool at not over twenty-two or twenty-three shillings a quarter. Major Bell is exceedingly hopeful of the future of the northwest. In his own words he says: "This year, indeed, we shall not send you more than three or four million bushels; but then, you must remember that two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred mile of us, and in five years more we shall be sending you fifteen or twenty millions. The wheat trade of the world is inevitably falling into our hands. Twenty years ago the Eastern States, from New York to Illinois, were exporting wheat; to-day they are importing it; and in another twenty years the Western States, which are now exporting will be our customers, too. That is so far good for the English farmer, no doubt; but by that time we shall be able to serve you all, and you will be better off. We have no iron, and we shall not see other industries encroaching on agriculture, as is the case in the States. No, wheat is our specialty, and we shall come in time to supply the world."

97 kb

1885 – March 19 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* p. __, col, 2 & 3 – comments on Bell Farm reports in VIDETTE

> "In last week's VIDETTE there appears a letter from one of a set here who regard anything said against the Bell Farm as blasphemy. I do not get my instructions from the clerk of the council, and no one knows what I have said in my weekly correspondence until the VIDETTE

appears. If "Ebznbo" objects to my statements, let him show that they are false. He must hold very curious opinions if he considers our councillors to be old, experienced hands, or that a knowledge of scientific farming is likely to be acquired on the Bell Farm. However unpleasant it may be to men like "Ebznbo," I mean to speak out the truth; and as long as I stick to the truth I feel sure that I need have no fear of such individuals as "Ebznbo."

1885 – March 19 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 3 – Agricultural College at Bell Farm

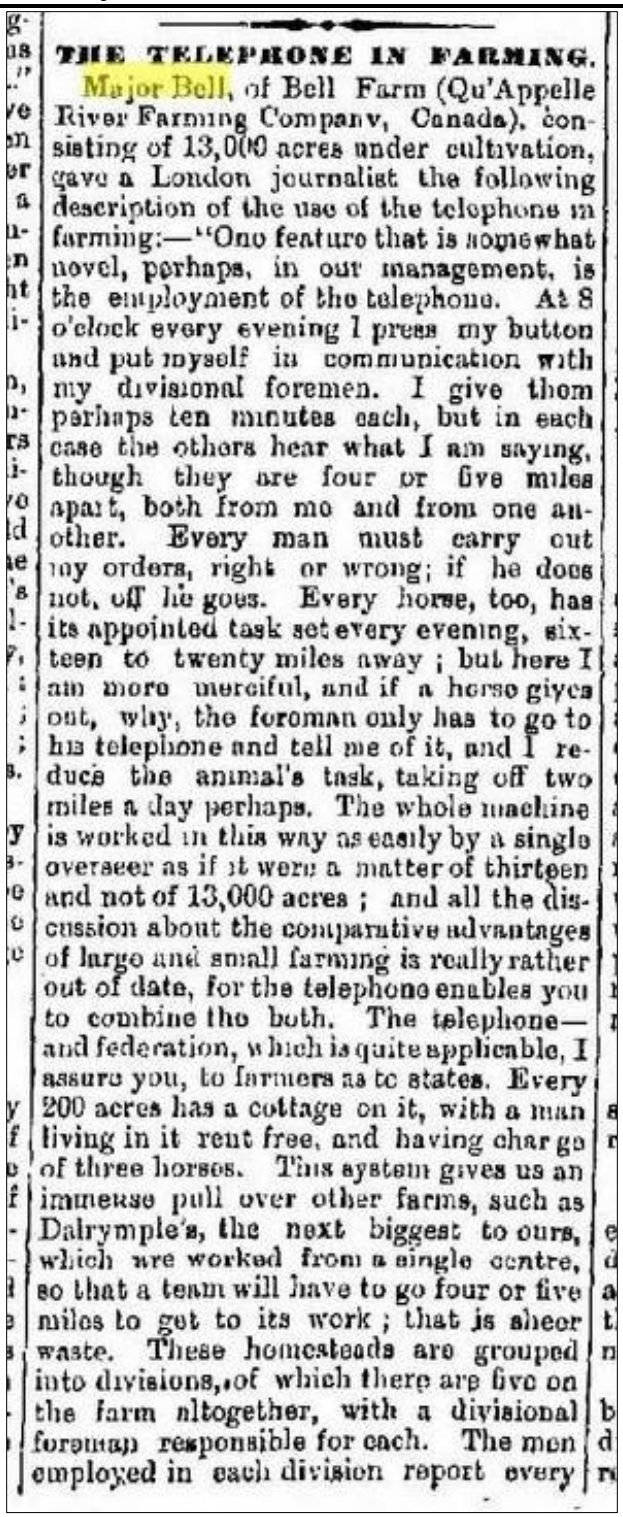
"**GLEANINGS**. It is reported that the Bell Farm Company have under consideration a scheme to convert the Bell farm into an Agricultural college for the Northwest territories. Major Bell has gone to England in the interests of this movement."

1885 – March 19 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 1 – Dr. Edwards discussed Bell farm visit in 1884 with British Assoc.

"Dr. James Edmunds, who was with the British Association excursion party last summer, in an address to a London (Eng.) audience, speaks of the Bell Farm as follows:

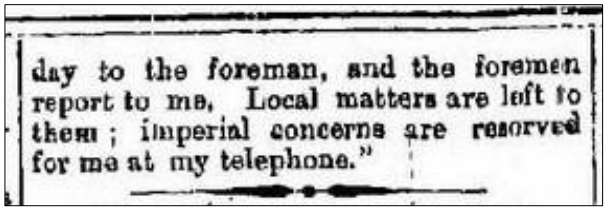
'During the 1884 season the Bell farm has raised 130,000 bushels of grain grown on 6,000 acres. The acreage and crop are expected, in 1885, to be double that of last season. Major Bell gives the cost of raising wheat and delivering it free on board the cars at Indian Head as follows: labour 7 c.. horses $0.036, maintenance of labourers, $0.033, seed, interest on capital, and depreciation on the value of stock 20c, making a total at the point of shipment of 34c. per bushel, or $2.72 per quarter. To this must be added $2.73, or 341/3 per bushel, the cost of transportation to Liverpool, which will leave a liberal margin of profit on the capital invested even at the present low quotations."

1885 – March 21 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Telephone at Bell Farm, and Dalrymple farm comments (also printed in the *Sandusky Daily Register, Ohio,* April 26, 1885, p. 3; and in the *Lincoln Daily Evening News, Nebraska*, April 28, 1885, p. 2; and the *Winchester Journal, Indiana,* July 8, 1885, p. 4; and the *Honolulu Daily Pacific Commercial Advertiser, Hawaii*, July 12, 1885, p. 4; and *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette,* April 6, 1885, p. 2); also the *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern*, Wisconsin, 30 April, 1885, p. 21;



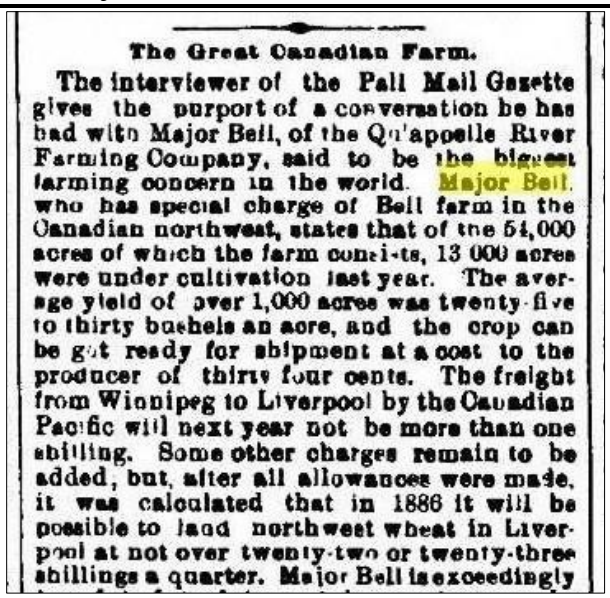
THE TELEPHONE IN FARMING.

Major Bell, of Bell Farm (Qu'Appelle River Farming Company, Canada), consisting of 13,000 acres under cultivation, gave a London journalist the following description of the use of the telephone in farming:—"One feature that is somewhat novel, perhaps, in our management, is the employment of the telephone. At 8 o'clock every evening I press my button and put myself in communication with my divisional foremen. I give them perhaps ten minutes each, but in each case the others hear what I am saying, though they are four or five miles apart, both from me and from one another. Every man must carry out my orders, right or wrong; if he does not, off he goes. Every horse, too, has its appointed task set every evening, sixteen to twenty miles away; but here I am more merciful, and if a horse gives out, why, the foreman only has to go to his telephone and tell me of it, and I reduce the animal's task, taking off two miles a day perhaps. The whole machine is worked in this way as easily by a single overseer as if it were a matter of thirteen and not of 13,000 acres; and all the discussion about the comparative advantages of large and small farming is really rather out of date, for the telephone enables you to combine the both. The telephone—and federation, which is quite applicable, I assure you, to farmers as to states. Every 200 acres has a cottage on it, with a man living in it rent free, and having charge of three horses. This system gives us an immense pull over other farms, such as Dalrymple's, the next biggest to ours, which are worked from a single centre, so that a team will have to go four or five miles to get to its work; that is sheer waste. These homesteads are grouped into divisions, of which there are five on the farm altogether, with a divisional foreman responsible for each. The men employed in each division report every day to the foreman, and the foremen report to me. Local matters are left to them; imperial concerns are reserved for me at my telephone."



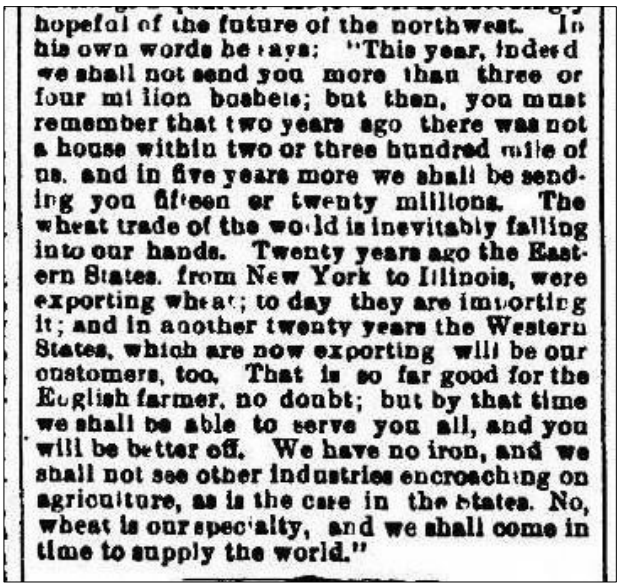
Part 1 of 2: 172 kb Part 2 of 2: 40 kb

1885 – March 21 – *Martinsville Weekly Gazette, Indiana*, p. 3 – Bell Farm – extract based on Pall Mall Gazette



The Great Canadian Farm.

The interviewer of the Pall Mall Gazette gives the purport of a conversation he has had with Major Bell, of the Qu'apoelle River Farming Company, said to be the biggest farming concern in the world. Major Bell, who has special charge of Bell farm in the Canadian northwest, states that of the 54,000 acres of which the farm consists, 13 000 acres were under cultivation last year. The average yield of over 1,000 acres was twenty-five to thirty bushels an acre, and the crop can be got ready for shipment at a cost to the producer of thirty four cents. The freight from Winnipeg to Liverpool by the Canadian Pacific will next year not be more than one shilling. Some other charges remain to be added, but, after all allowances were made, it was calculated that in 1886 it will be possible to land northwest wheat in Liverpool at not over twenty-two or twenty-three shillings a quarter. Major Bell is exceedingly



hopeful of the future of the northwest. In his own words he says: "This year, indeed we shall not send you more than three or four million bushels; but then, you must remember that two years ago there was not a house within two or three hundred mile of us, and in five years more we shall be sending you fifteen or twenty millions. The wheat trade of the world is inevitably falling into our hands. Twenty years ago the Eastern States, from New York to Illinois, were exporting wheat; to day they are importing it; and in another twenty years the Western States, which are now exporting will be our customers, too. That is so far good for the English farmer, no doubt; but by that time we shall be able to serve you all, and you will be better off. We have no iron, and we shall not see other industries encroaching on agriculture, as is the case in the States. No, wheat is our specialty, and we shall come in time to supply the world."

Part 1 of 2: 133 kb Part 2 of 2: 133 kb

1885 – March 24 – *Regina Leader* – p. 2 & 4 – Major Bell, manager, Interviewed

(*from the Pall Mall Gazette*)" – see March 13 – *Montreal Gazette* – better quality scan

1885 – March 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 3 – Bell Farm crop mentioned in "Our Wheat" article

"**OUR WHEAT - Comparison of the Northwest with India as a producer -** . . . . elevators have been erected on the line of railways as follows: . . . . Indian Head, 60,000 bushels, by the Bel Farm Company. . . . . ."

1885 – March 24 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Bell returns from England; heads to Qu'Appelle

"**PERSNAL MENTION.** – Major Bell, manager of the Bell farm, who has just returned from England, left for Qu'Appelle this morning."

1885 – March 25 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell back from trip to England

"**CITY AND PROVINCE**. – Major Bell has arrived back from his trip to England."

1885 – March 26 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – carpenters off to Indian Head to help build Bell's Grist / Flour Mill

"A number of carpenters left for Indian Head where they are to work on the construction of the new grist mill of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company."

1885 – North-West Rebellion / Uprising / Conflict / Resistance – occurred between March 26 and June 3, 1885

1885 – March 26, - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

["Riel Trouble" Lots of news, including "some 96 NWMP stopped at Fort Qu'Appelle on route to the Saskatchewan District" securing supplies etc.] – check for details

1885 – March 27 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell Farming Company annual meeting and new directors.

"**CITY AND PROVINCE** – At the annual meeting of the Bell Farming Company, on Wednesday, the old officers and directors were re-elected, and Mr. Thistle, of Ottawa, and Mr. Towner, of Toronto, were added to the board. The annual report was read and adopted. The meeting adjourned till April 8."

1885 – March 27 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, 44-45 - The North West Rebellion - Supplies

"The Hudson Bay Co. are furnishing the supplies, and are doing it most thoroughly. Chief Factor Adams personally superintending the work. A strong force was busily engaged all last night packing and fixing up the necessary material, and this morning six car loads of provisions and supplies, consisting of bacon, biscuit, tea, coffee, sugar, rice, canned goods, and general groceries, blankets, etc. were loaded and ready for transportation. Two hundred pairs of moccasins have also been furnished. Beside this, eight car loads of oats and four car loads of pressed hay were loaded. A larger quantity of the latter would have been taken, but that there is an unlimited supply at Qu'Appelle. Although orders were only furnished night before last, the H. B. Co. have furnished forage for the teams at the different stations between Qu'Appelle and Humboldt, and beyond that point, the necessary hay and oats will be furnished in advance of the troops. Two hundred and forty teams of horses with the necessary vehicles, will also be provided by the Hudson's Bay Co., and Mr. Wm. Clark, who is in charge of this department, has already secured all that is necessary. There will be 140 teams taken from Winnipeg, and 100 more will meet the force at Qu'Appelle. Of these, forty will probably be supplied from the Bell Farm, although their doing so would greatly interfere with the spring seeding on that mammoth institution. There is no snow in the west; waggons* will be used for transporting the men to the scene of action."

1885 – March 27 – Extracts from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary (transcript by Hugh Henry)

Friday, March 27

1:24 a.m. go to Station Hotel, awake(?) at 7 a.m. start on St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba R.R at 8:15 a.m. Wheat firm(?) & higher on War ramps England and Russia. Talk of Russia – Turkish alliance. Lord Dufferin advises treaty with Constantinople. Dine or rather luncheon at Grand Forks. Arrive Winnipeg 7:00, find 90th Reg. and some cavalry starting off with General Middleton for Qu'Appelle where they will branch off to march 220 miles direct north to Fort Carlton which is in hands of Riel. After dinner am introduced to Mr. Everts [Hermann Eberts], secretary & treasurer to Bell Farming Co. tells me Mr. Nelson master mason Winnipeg will undertake my work. For lumber F ? Banks, Mr. F. Patton Man'r [manager] will sell about $17 per 1,000 ft. Mr. Kerr, Passenger agent C.P.R. will tell me of carpenter, will send at 2 cents per mile, about $7 to Balgonie. He considers 1,250 lbs. animals to be worth $165 in Ottawa and to be best - $15 Ottawa to Balgonie. C.P.R. give through rate from east. Arrange with them, Buford Sulky Plough is best. Mast Buford & Burwell, J.H. Burwell sec & treas. St. Paul, refer to Bell - for harness S. Borbridge & Co. Ottawa $23 per set, 57 sets supplied last year. MacGregor Bros. horse dealers Winnipeg, reliable men. Van Horne declares R.R. to be through September 22. He will give rates 25 cents per bushel Winnipeg to Liverpool, so through rate Balgonie to Liverpool 31 cents per bushel. Everts [Eberts] takes us on to Club and puts us up for 10 stags(?) Excellent glass of sherry, some talk and go over to hotel, very well satisfied.

1885 – March 28 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 1 - - Teamsters from Indian Head go to Qu'Appelle.

" AT QUAPPELLE - Qu'Appelle, March 27. – Thirty teams have just arrived from Fort Qu'Appelle. Forty-five more will come in the morning, and thirty from Indian Head and Regina to transport the troops and ammunition. A special has just passed through to Broadview to bring the Mounted Police here."

1885 – March 30 – *The London Standard*, p. 2 – proposed Anglican Farm between Bell Farm and Qu'Appelle

> "HOME and FOREIGN AGRICULRURE. . . . . Dr. Anson, Bishop of Assiniboia, is turning his attention to the establishment of a Church Collegiate Farm for intending Colonists who are members of the Church of England. Some excellent land for the farm has been purchased, close to the town of Qu'Appelle, within a few miles of the great Bell Farm at Indian Head."

1885 – March 31 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p. 75-76 – Help from Indians refused

> "Col. Herchmer has left Regina for Battleford via Swift Current, from whence there is a trail. He has a force of seventy men with him and will push ahead as rapidly as possible. The scouts who are to precede the expedition from this point number eighteen, and are composed, with two exceptions, of white men, several being from Stonewall. The other two are halfbreeds. A number of the Indians who helped to recover the horses stolen from the Bell Farm last summer offered their services but they were refused. Capt. French will command them. There is still a great demand for teams."

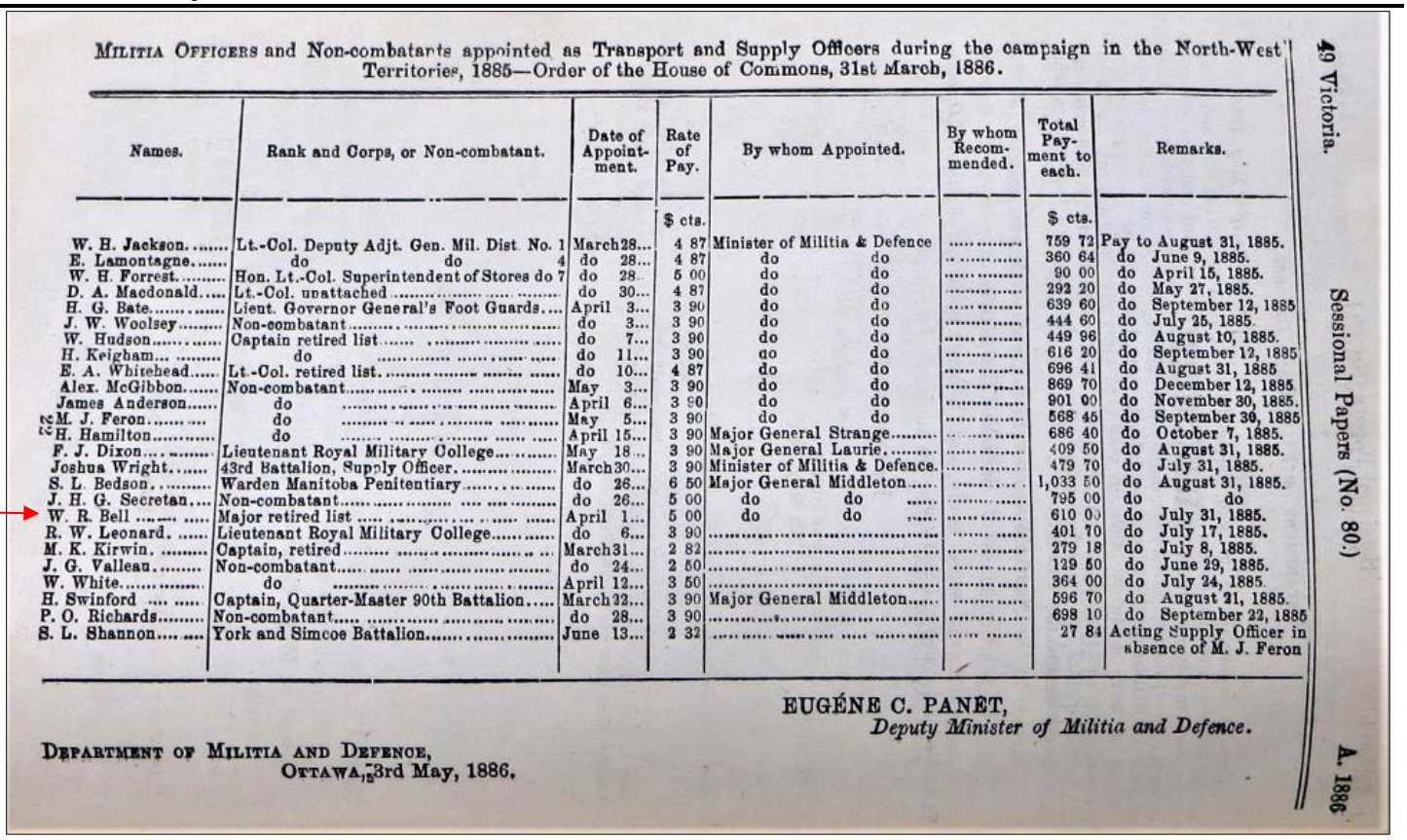
1885 – March 31 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p 79 – Letter from Major Bell to Eberts, at Indian Head

> "Mr. Eberts received a letter this morning from Major Bell, in which it was stated that Piapot and his tribes are quiet, and no trouble is anticipated. The Major states that the resources of the farm were largely drawn upon in furnishing the transportation equipment for the volunteers."

1885 – March - Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
160	March 13, 1885	Milton …*Paddy*	Fort Qu'Appelle	Saskatchewan

1885 – April 1 – Mayor Bell appointed to Transport Office, Qu'Appelle (as reported in 1886 Sessional Paper No. 80



MILITIA OFFICERS and Non-combatants appointed as Transport and Supply Officers during the campaign in the North-West Territories, 1885—Order of the House of Commons, 31st March, 1886.

Names.	Rank and Corps, or Non-combatant.	Date of Appointment.	Rate of Pay.	By whom Appointed.	By whom Recommended.	Total Payment to each.	Remarks.
			$ cts.			$ cts.	
W. H. Jackson	Lt.-Col. Deputy Adjt. Gen. Mil. Dist. No. 1	March 28	4 87	Minister of Militia & Defence		759 72	Pay to August 31, 1885.
E. Lamontagne	do do 4	do 28	4 87	do do		360 64	do June 9, 1885.
W. H. Forrest	Hon. Lt.-Col. Superintendent of Stores do 7	do 28	5 00	do do		90 00	do April 15, 1885.
D. A. Macdonald	Lt.-Col. unattached	do 30	4 87	do do		292 20	do May 27, 1885.
H. G. Bate	Lieut. Governor General's Foot Guards	April 3	3 90	do do		639 60	do September 12, 1885
J. W. Woolsey	Non-combatant	do 3	3 90	do do		444 60	do July 25, 1885.
W. Hudson	Captain retired list	do 7	3 90	do do		449 96	do August 10, 1885.
H. Keigham	do	do 11	3 90	do do		616 20	do September 12, 1885
E. A. Whitehead	Lt.-Col. retired list.	do 10	4 87	do do		696 41	do August 31, 1885
Alex. McGibbon	Non-combatant	May 3	3 90	do do		869 70	do December 12, 1885
James Anderson	do	April 6	3 90	do do		901 90	do November 30, 1885.
M. J. Feron	do	May 5	3 90	do do		568 45	do September 30, 1885
H. Hamilton	do	April 15	3 90	Major General Strange		686 40	do October 7, 1885.
F. J. Dixon	Lieutenant Royal Military College	May 18	3 90	Major General Laurie		409 50	do August 31, 1885.
Joshua Wright	43rd Battalion, Supply Officer.	March 30	3 90	Minister of Militia & Defence.		479 70	do July 31, 1885.
S. L. Bedson	Warden Manitoba Penitentiary	do 26	6 50	Major General Middleton		1,033 50	do August 31, 1885.
J. H. G. Secretan	Non-combatant	do 26	5 00	do do		795 00	do do
W. R. Bell	Major retired list	April 1	5 00	do do		610 00	do July 31, 1885.
R. W. Leonard	Lieutenant Royal Military College	do 6	3 90			401 70	do July 17, 1885.
M. K. Kirwin	Captain, retired	March 31	2 82			279 18	do July 8, 1885.
J. G. Valleau	Non-combatant	do 24	2 50			129 50	do June 29, 1885.
W. White	do	April 12	3 50			364 00	do July 24, 1885.
H. Swinford	Captain, Quarter-Master 90th Battalion	March 22	3 90	Major General Middleton		596 70	do August 21, 1885.
P. O. Richards	Non-combatant	do 28	3 90			698 10	do September 22, 1885
S. L. Shannon	York and Simcoe Battalion	June 13	2 32			27 84	Acting Supply Officer in absence of M. J. Feron

EUGÉNE C. PANET,
Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,
OTTAWA, 3rd May, 1886.

49 Victoria. Sessional Papers (No. 80.) A. 1886

[NOTE: See entry about 2/3 down for Major Bell: served from April 1 to July, 31, 1885] 635 kb

1885 – April 2 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p. 112 – Tom Routledge, former manager of Bell Farm

> "VIRDEN. April 2.—At a meeting of citizens, held here last night, it was proposed to form a home guard for protection in the event of an attack being made upon the town by the half-breeds and Indians in this vicinity. Fifty volunteers were enrolled and formed a company, with T. Routledge as captain and Dr. Young as lieutenant. The company will be increased to one hundred members. A telegram was sent to the Minister of Militia for seventy five hand arms and ammunition."

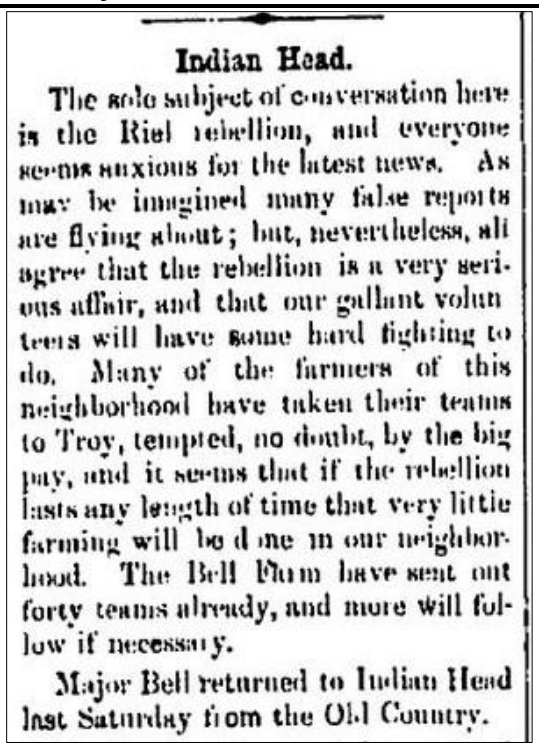
1885 – April 2 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 2 – Major Bell in Ottawa from England

> "**The Northwest at Ottawa -** Major Bell arrived from England this morning. He reports that emigration proposals are most encouraging and that a large immigration into the Northwest is certain. He found a better feeling in relation to the country prevailing in the rural districts of Great Britain , and has, by interviews in the local press, disseminated much useful information among the farmers there."

1885 – April 2 – *York Herald, Richmond Hill, Ontario* p. 1 – Major Bell returns from England - to set up college on Farm

> "**SCOTTISH NEWS** – Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, N.W.T., has just returned from England, where he has made arrangements for the establishment of an agricultural college in connection with his farm."

1885 – April 2, 1885 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Bell Farm teams for Rebellion; Bell back from England



Indian Head.

The solo subject of conversation here is the Riel rebellion, and everyone seems anxious for the latest news. As may be imagined many false reports are flying about; but, nevertheless, all agree that the rebellion is a very serious affair, and that our gallant volunteers will have some hard fighting to do. Many of the farmers of this neighborhood have taken their teams to Troy, tempted, no doubt, by the big pay, and it seems that if the rebellion lasts any length of time that very little farming will be done in our neighborhood. The Bell Farm have sent out forty teams already, and more will follow if necessary.

Major Bell returned to Indian Head last Saturday from the Old Country.

103 kb

1885 – April 3 – *Winnipeg Daily Times*, p. 123 – report on transportation service during Rebellion

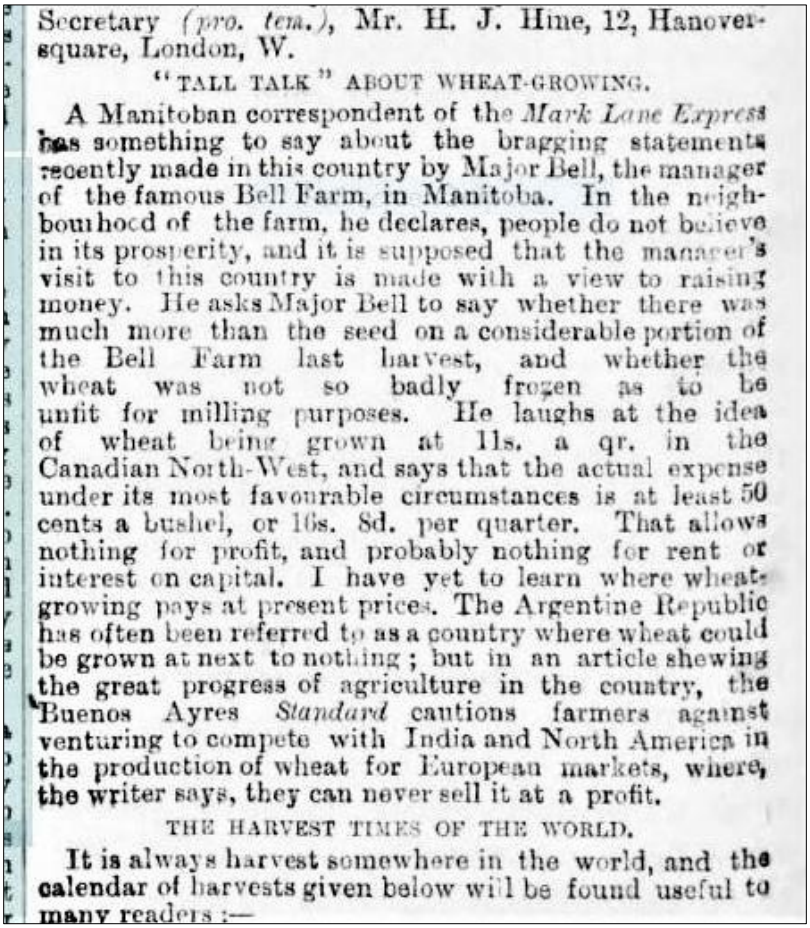
"THE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, the most important part of the expedition, is under the direction of a most efficient officer. At present the service consists of nearly four hundred teams, and the number will have to be increased to one thousand before the march is commenced in earnest. Every available team in the Qu'Appelle valley has been pressed into the service, and agents have been dispatched to Regina, Moose Jaw and other adjacent points to secure more horses. The difficulties of operating this part of the expedition are great. Owing to the scarcity of fodder in the country to be traveled, **EVERYTHING HAS TO BE CARRIED ALONG,** and a team will eat more than it could start out with in making the journey to Prince Albert. The men are carried in wagons, ten to each team. To carry five hundred men, their arms and baggage, eighty five teams would be required. One Hundred and forty teams would then be required to carry forage for these eighty five teams. Even then the one hundred and forty teams have not been fed, and the thing compounds itself in an alarming manner. Mr. Bedson has therefore decided to establish a **SYSTEM OF SUPPLY STATIONS** along the line of march as far as Humboldt, arranged in 20 mile approximate intervals. Teams are now hauling north to Touchwood. Every station is to be stocked and a **CHAIN OF TEAMS KEPT RUNNING** from one to the other. A wagon will leave the base of supplies and be taken by one team to Qu'Appelle. Another will take it to the next station, and so on until it reaches its destination. By this means the wagons will be kept moving continually. The teams will be confined to short stretches. Dr. Rutherford, of the Portage, is the "vet" of the service. The horses are all in good condition, but one case of mange has been discovered. **MAJOR BELL'S HORSES.** Major Bell, of the Bell farm, complained to your correspondent over the loss he is sustaining by the expedition. Fifty teams have been pressed into the service much against his will, and only thirty are left on the farm to seed ten thousand acres. One thousand acres of wheat were put in last Monday, but the snow fall since will delay seeding. There will be very little seeding in the Qu'Appelle Valley. The farmers are all with the expedition with their teams. They expect to earn from three to four hundred dollars each and afterwards do a lot of breaking for next year."

1885 – April 3 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – letter from A.M. Ferguson to his mother about Bell Farm teams

"**THE REBELLION** . . . IN CAMP . . . Qu'Appelle, N.W.T. March 29, 1885 . . . I am writing this just after tea. Keep all my letters and they will be a sort of diary. Thirty-two teams and wagons came in from the Bell farm this afternoon. The Bell farm gets $10 a day for each man and team. This, with 240 teams from the Hudson's Bay Company, will make 300 teams and drivers. If the drivers were all armed they would make a force of 300 good men, nearly all acquainted with the country. . . . . ."

[FRANK: (Private A.M. Fergusson was with Company 1, 90th Battalion]

1885 – April 3 – *The North Wales Express*, p. 6 – A sceptic's negative view of Bell Farm crop reports



Secretary *(pro. tem.)*, Mr. H. J. Hime, 12, Hanover-square, London, W.

"TALL TALK" ABOUT WHEAT-GROWING.

A Manitoban correspondent of the *Mark Lane Express* has something to say about the bragging statements recently made in this country by Major Bell, the manager of the famous Bell Farm, in Manitoba. In the neighbourhood of the farm, he declares, people do not believe in its prosperity, and it is supposed that the manager's visit to this country is made with a view to raising money. He asks Major Bell to say whether there was much more than the seed on a considerable portion of the Bell Farm last harvest, and whether the wheat was not so badly frozen as to be unfit for milling purposes. He laughs at the idea of wheat being grown at 11s. a qr. in the Canadian North-West, and says that the actual expense under its most favourable circumstances is at least 50 cents a bushel, or 16s. 8d. per quarter. That allows nothing for profit, and probably nothing for rent or interest on capital. I have yet to learn where wheat-growing pays at present prices. The Argentine Republic has often been referred to as a country where wheat could be grown at next to nothing; but in an article shewing the great progress of agriculture in the country, the Buenos Ayres *Standard* cautions farmers against venturing to compete with India and North America in the production of wheat for European markets, where, the writer says, they can never sell it at a profit.

THE HARVEST TIMES OF THE WORLD.

It is always harvest somewhere in the world, and the calendar of harvests given below will be found useful to many readers :—

1885- April 4 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun,* p. 4 - Fire in Cauchon Block damages apartments for H.J. Eberts and Mrs. Bell

"CAUCHOL BLOCK – Narrowly Escapes Destruction by Fire . . . . . Among the losers by the fire are the following gentlemen who had apartments in the building: . . . . H.J. Eberts, Secretary of the Bell Farm Company, ... and W. Sheppard. Mrs. Bell's apartments were slightly damaged. . . . . ."

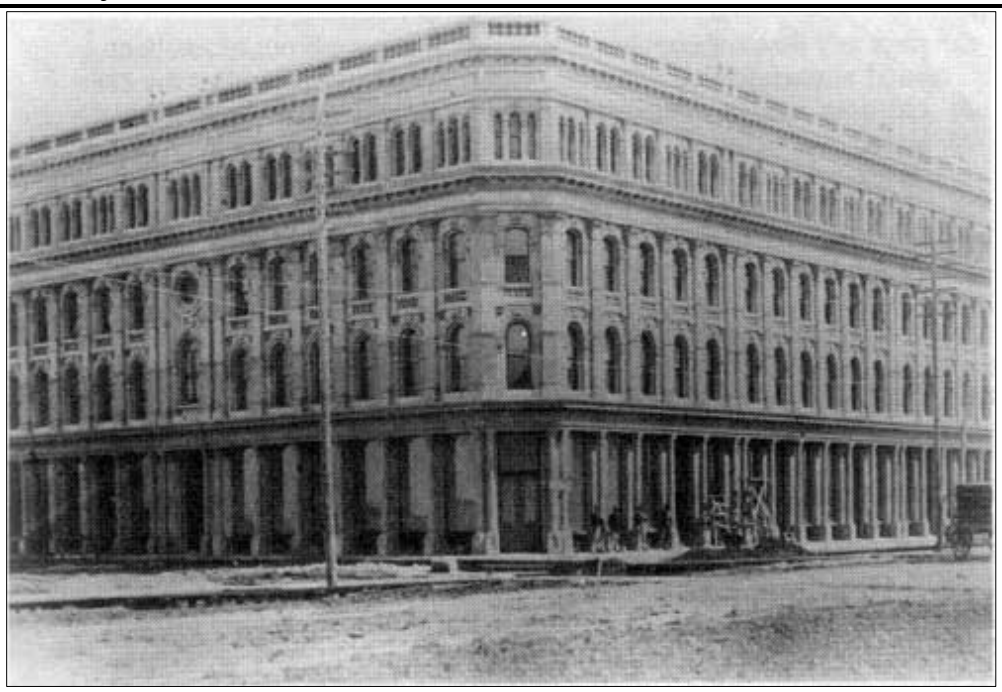


Photo: ca. 1882-83 - http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/pageant/21/cauchonblock.shtml

1885 – April 6 – *The Leeds Mercury* – criticism of Bell's farming statistics by Williams and the *Mercury* editor

In connection with the subject of our future wheat-supply, a letter written to the *Times* by Mr. S. Williamson, M.P., is very interesting. He takes exception to the extraordinary estimates of the cost of producing wheat in Manitoba, and sending it to this country, published by Major Bell, manager of the great Bell Farm in Qu'Appelle Valley. This gentleman professes to be able to grow wheat at about 11s. a quarter, and to sell it in Liverpool for 22s. or 23s. Mr. Williamson tells us he has had some experience in growing wheat in the Red River Valley, where the land is quite as fertile as it is in Manitoba, besides being much nearer to a great milling centre, and he testifies that prices lately current have been ruinous. While Major Bell puts the cost of producing wheat at 34 cents a bushel, Mr. Williamson declares that a continuance of the late quotation of 45 cents a bushel in elevators near the farms of the Red River Valley would soon ruin everybody and put the land out of cultivation. As to the freight by land and sea to this country, Mr. Williamson puts it at 25s. a quarter, instead of 11s., which is Major Bell's estimate. Reckoning 17s. a quarter as the cost of producing the wheat in Manitoba, and adding the cost of carriage, he makes the amount 42s. a quarter in Liverpool. I am persuaded that Mr. Williamson's estimate is a great deal more trustworthy than Major Bell's. The former has no interests to serve by exaggerating the cost of producing and conveying wheat, while the latter may have "axes to grind," in the shape of raising capital in this country to prop up the gigantic enterprise with which he is connected. Moreover Mr. Williamson's arguments are in effect supported by the evidence of a Manitoban correspondent of the *Mark-lane Express* who laughs at Major Bell's figures, and says that any practical farmer in the Canadian North-West will tell us that it costs 50 cents a bushel to produce wheat there under the most favourable circumstances. He further states that people in the neighbourhood of the Bell Farm, of whom he is one, have

Part 1 of 2: 306 kb

no faith in the prosperity of the great business, and he asks the Major to say frankly whether he got more than the seed on a portion of the farm last harvest, and whether the wheat was not so badly injured by the frosts that occurred just before harvest as to be unfit for milling purposes. Such brag as Major Bell's does harm by making English wheat growers despair of their industry, and by tempting men to go to the Canadian North-West under altogether delusive hopes. None of the extravagant statements as to ability to supply this country with wheat at less than 30s. a quarter, or, indeed, at less than 40s., will bear examination. We have seen how ruinous recent prices have proved to American growers, and how the export from India has fallen off. But the latest evidence of a similar kind comes from the Argentine Republic, one of the numerous "future granaries of the world." The *Buenos Ayres Standard*, a paper noted for its glorification of the resources of the River Plate countries, now warns farmers there that they cannot hope to compete with North America and India in supplying European markets with wheat. Time after time since the *Leeds Mercury Weekly Supplement* was started I have assured its readers that no country in the world could profitably send wheat here to sell at less than about 40s. a qr., and that at such a price the profit would be too meagre to be tempting. In the light of recent experience, I am more confident than ever in the truth of that statement. In rare seasons of fruitfulness, nearly all over the world, we may have wheat below 40s. in the future, as in the past; but, in any series of years—say a decade—we shall see the price more frequently rising to 50s. a quarter, than sinking to 30s.

Part 2 of 2: 261 kb

1885 – April 6 – *"Het Nieuws Van Den Dag" - The News of the Day for Monday 6 April 1885*, p. 15 – [NOTE – this is a long article on the Bell Farm written in Dutch, published in Amsterdam, Holland. Get translated details from scanned copy.]

1885 – April 9 – Diary of George Murphy, Qu'Appelle (published in Gleichen Call, Sept. 1, 1920, p. 2)

"**MAJOR BELL** - Tenth Royal Grenadiers of Toronto, under Grassett came in today by special train. Forty men of "C" school under Captain Wadmore, left last night for Swift Current to await orders. Major Bell is now here in the transport office. E.N. Armit, came in from Winnipeg, and will probably take charge of the transport from Swift Current."

1885 – April 11 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2 – the North West Farmer report on Bell Farm

"The North-West farmer says that the Bell farming company have under consideration a scheme to convert the Bell farm into an agricultural college for the North-West territories. If this is done, Major Bell had better take a course of lessons. He has succeeded by a couple of years of experiments and with considerable loss to his backers in proving that he does not know how to run a large farm profitably. After an agricultural college course of a couple of years he might be able to run a small farm more successfully."

1885 – April 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – crop report on Bell Farm

"**AGRICULTURE. Early Seeding.** A week ago Major Bell had sown 300 acres of wheat at the Bell Farm, Indian Head. The sharp frost of Monday the 6th put a stop for a day or two seeding operations , but doubtless by this time they have a considerable acreage sown."

1885 – April 14 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Bell to Swift Current by train for military transport service

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, went down by Sunday night's train on his way from Swift Current to Qu'Appelle Station, in connection with arrangements for the transport service for the troops now in active service in the North-West.

ALSO: instruction for Transport Service from S.L. Bedson, Chief Transport Officer – see copy on file

1885 – April 16 – Calgary *Nor'Wester*, p. 2 – Forty of the Bell Farm teams off to Troy (Qu'Appelle) for military duty.

"**INDIAN HEAD:** The sole subject of conversation here is the Riel rebellion, and everyone seems anxious for the latest news. As may be imagined many false reports are flying about; but, nevertheless, all agree that the rebellion is a very serious affair, and that our gallant volunteers will have some hard fighting to do. Many of the farmers of this neighbourhood have taken their teams to Troy, tempted, no doubt, by the big pay, and it seems that if the rebellion lasts any length of time that very little farming will be done in our neighbourhood. The Bell Farm have sent out forty teams already, and more will follow if necessary."

1885 – April 17 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun,* p. 1 – Major Bell reports on cost of transporting hay to Clark's Crossing

"$400 PER TON FOR HAY. Major Bell states that hay is worth $400 per ton by the time it is transported from Troy to Clark's Crossing. This includes the original cost, the cost of freighting and the hay consumed on the road by the teams."

1885 – April 18 – *Ortago Witness,* New Zealand – critical report of Bell Farm optimism, reprint of an original article published in "this country" [England] on Feb. 26, 1885.

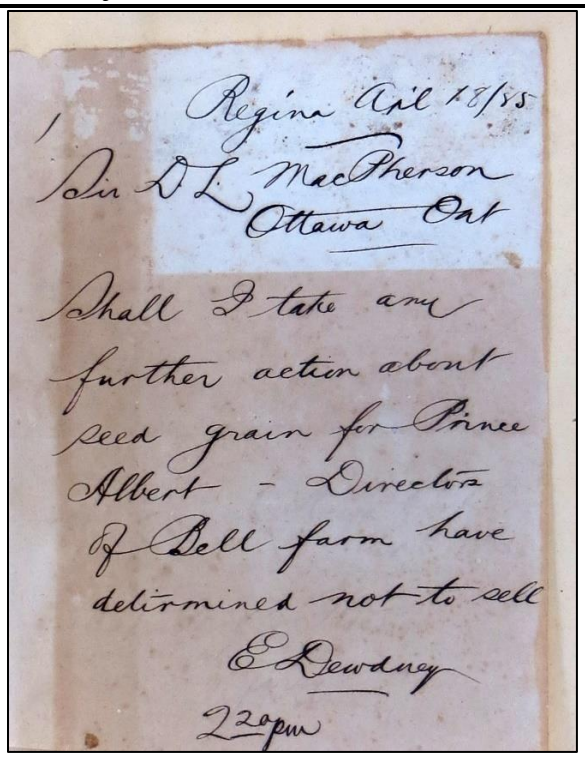
CANADA AS A WHEAT PRODUCER.

Major Bell, manager of the famous Bell Farm, in Qu'Appelle Valley, North-west Canada, is now on a visit to this country, and he has been giving free vent to what is called "Canadian brag." His country is, he says, the "future granary of the world" We have heard that of so many countries that we don't think much of it. Major Bell proposes to grow wheat at about 11s a quarter, and to be able to lay it down in Liverpool at 23s per quarter, with profit. That I decline to believe, though Major Bell may be perfectly convinced that it is true. Quite recently I had a letter from a correspondent who is settled in the North-west of Canada, and he sends a very unflattering account of the prospects of farmers in that greatly-belauded country. All through the North-west, he says, the yield of the crops last harvest was only about half what was expected, and the price of wheat of medium quality has been only about 38 to 43 cents per bushel; while frozen wheat, of which there is a great deal, is unsaleable, and oats have been selling at 26 cents a bushel. In short, he says that farming does not pay in the Canadian North-west any better than in other parts of the world. The length of the winter is the great objection to the country, as from November to April nothing can be done on the land, and my correspondent goes so far as to say that, in order to crop a hundred acres of land, it is necessary to have two hundred acres broken, so as to crop half of it in alternate years. I do not believe in a "future granary of the world" existing where wheat is frozen just before being harvested.

245 kb

1885 – April 18 – CPR Telegram: Regina – Lieut. Gov. Dewdney to MacPherson.

"Sir D.L. MacPherson, Ottawa, Ont. Shall I take any further action about seed grain for Prince Albert – Directors of Bell Farm have determined not to sell. E. Dewdney - 2:20 p.m."
(sample of original telegram below – source: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan [PAS])


Regina April 19/85
Sir D L MacPherson
Ottawa Ont
Shall I take any
further action about
seed grain for Prince
Albert - Directors
of Bell farm have
determined not to sell
E Dewdney
2.20pm

314 kb

1885 – April 19 – CPR Telegram: Clark's Crossing: Gen. Middleton to Wrigley

"Mr. Wrigley, HBC. WPG - We want more teams at Troy. Maj. Bell recommends employment of Bell teams. Says can get plenty on short notice. Something must be done at once. Feed all used up + 500 horses in camp. F. Middleton. 12:30 p."

1885 – April 19 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Wrigley to Major Bell

"Maj. Bell, Qu'Appelle. By all means have 100 bull teams if you can get them promptly + consider them suitable. If more required wire. Give list teams to McDonald. Wrigley."

1885 – April 19 – CPR Telegram: Clark's Crossing: Major Smith to Sergeant Davis

"Sergt. Davis, New Fort, Toronto. Box up and send by Express twenty pairs of trousers out of quarter masters stores. Address them Major Smith, Infantry School c/o Maj/ Bell, Troy & he will forward - We are all well & in good spirits. Trust you are all the same. H. Smith, Major."

1885 – April 19 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Wrigley to Major Bell

"Winnipeg. Major Bell, Transport Officer, Qu'Appelle. News from Ottawa. Hay not at front & asking our assistance what can we do to have sent all requisitioned for. Wrigley by p.m."

1885 – April 19 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to Thomas Howard

"Thos Howard, Wpg. I will give you eight dollars per day for teams up to fifty. You can guarantee the conditions named but they must start at once. W.R. Bell"

1885 – April 19– CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to J. Wrigley.

"J. Wrigley, Wpg. I have offered to take Howards teams – we are doing everything possible to rush provisions & forage to the front. W.R. Bell. 7:45 p."

1885 – April 20 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to Howard

"T. Howard, Wpg. I want 50 cars of hay at Swift Current at once. Can you supply. Reply immediately saying how many if not all. W.R. Bell"

1885 – April 20 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Howard to Major Bell

"W.R. Bell, Qu'Appelle. Commission says he authorized you to wire James Ross, Columbia, B.C. if you wanted teams. Please do so at once on terms mentioned in his telegram to me of the 17th and set forth in my telegram to you yesterday. & oblige me Thos. Howard."

1885 – April 20 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Wrigley to Major Bell

"Maj. Bell. Qu'Appelle. Have hired another 100 teams all to be away tomorrow. Where shall they be sent to? Wrigley"

1885 – April 20 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to Jas. Ross

" Jas. Ross, Loggan. We will accept your teams per telegram of 17th to Capt. Howard if teams can be shipped at once. Please reply. W.R. Bell, Transport Officer."

1885 – April 20 [or 21] – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: T. Howard to Major Bell

"Maj. W.R. Bell, Qu'Appelle – 5 cars in addition to what you have already certified to, have gone forward. Think it possible only to get a few cars more – balance must be procured in States – what shall I do? Thos. Howard."

1885 – April 20 - *Lyttelton Times*, New Zealand – comparison of Bell Farm with New Zealand farming, and refers to the North-West Rebellion as "a little difficulty with Indians".

MAJOR BELL, of the Canadian North West, has been giving the *Pall Mall Gazette* his experiences of farming in that region, on which he founds his theory that the Canadian North West is destined to be the granary of the world. The Major is qualified to speak with authority as a wheat-grower, for he is described as managing with great success a farm of 54,000 acres, of which 13,000 last year were made to raise grain. Whether he is a prophet is another matter altogether. What we are concerned with are his figures, which the *Pall Mall*, not a bad judge of men and things, says can be relied upon. Major Bell says that he produces wheat in the Far West and lands it in Liverpool for 22s to 23s a quarter, exclusive of profit. Of this the cost of production on the farm is 11s 4d per quarter, or 1s 5d per bushel. This is certainly not within 10d per bushel of the cost to the New Zealand farmer of producing his corn and sending it to London. Major Bell has not many equals in the Canadian North West as a manager, and the average price of land will not always remain as low as the price of his land, viz., six shillings per acre. Moreover, though the Major's figures may be absolutely trustworthy, perhaps some of his raptures about the Canadian climate (one of his great factors) will have to be discounted liberally when an average of years comes to be taken. There is, besides, a little difficulty with Indians which, having arisen since Major Bell spoke on the subject, naturally did not enter into his calculations. He has also omitted the sale expenses. Still the result of his farming, for which he vouches, is sufficiently remarkable to engage the serious attention and study of the farmers of every country which depends on supplying the English market.

There is enough in the contrast to prove that our farmers must produce more cheaply, that the whole community must back their demand to have their produce taken at less cost to the Coast, and that the shipowner must choose between lower freights or none at all.

Not many of our farmers will be able to reach the scale on which Major Bell does things. To subdivide a big block of country into numerous small patches of cultivation, clap a hut, stable, a squad of men and horses, and some implements upon each patch, and manage the whole by telephone, requires a farm to be as big as a principality. But every one can imitate the order and method of this great Canadian agriculturist. Everyone can plan his work carefully in the morning, and see what it has cost him at night. Every one can carry enterprise into his farming, as the Americans did

Part 1 of 3: 226kb

Part 2 of 3: 220 kb

when their wheat became unsaleable. Every one can study his rotation of crops, and, above all things, work his farm with his head. The railways, on their side, should aim at getting more money from the travellers by diminishing the passenger rates, so as to be able to carry produce at lower freights. Shipowners are mysterious people, and as unsafe to advise as those who, being unlearned in insurance, always clamour for reduced rates. But we may be sure that they will consult their own interest better by encouraging trade than by discouraging it, and there is only one way of encouraging it. But all this is of temporary purpose. By all means increase the area of good management, and diminish the cost of freights by land and sea. These, when we get them fairly, are permanent benefits. At the same time we must bear in mind that we have an advantage over Canada which quite turns the scale in our favour. The Canadian North West, as Major Bell admits, having no other resources, must always remain a wheat producing, wheat exporting country. New Zealand, glorying in a vast variety of resources, is destined one day to find markets within her borders for all her produce. May that day come soon.

Part 3 of 3: 212 kb

1885 – April 22 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: T. Howard to Major Bell

"Major Bell, Qu'Appelle. – Cannot possibly get any more hay here at present. Two more cars in addition to what you have been notified of going forward from Portage. Cannot get any reply from States. Hear Hudson's Bay Co have some hay. Your only plan is to ask them to furnish. Have done all in my power to secure, but can in no way manage it. Thos. Howard."

1885 – April 22– CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Wrigley to Capt. Swinford

"Capt. Swinford, Qu'Appelle - Have bought 10 car loads hay from C.P.R. at Griswold for $16. See Bell & have this used immediately, as I hear you are paying more. Wrigley."

1885 – April 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Major Bell to Swift Current on Transport business

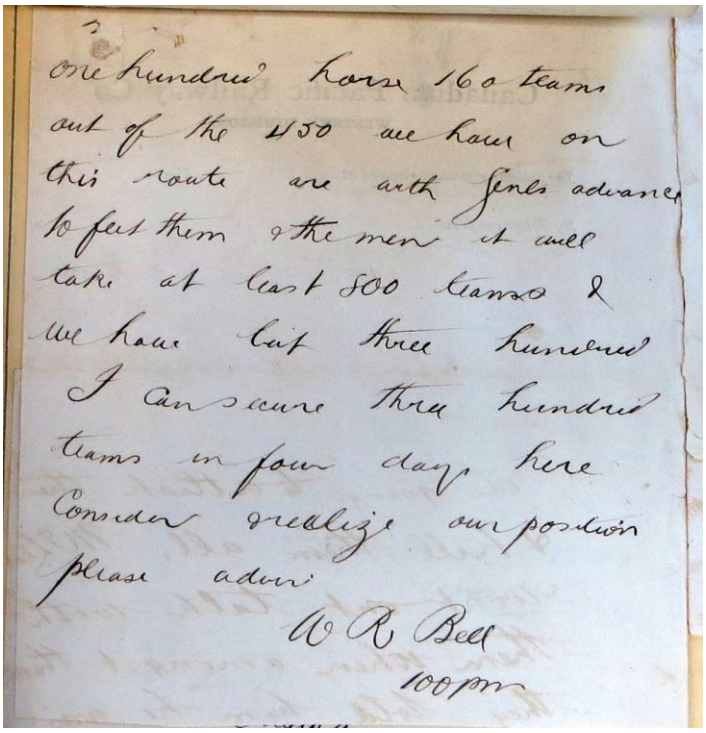
"Major Bell, of Indian Head, went down by Sunday night's train on his way from Swift Current to Qu'Appelle Station, in connection with arrangements for the transport services for the troops now in active service in the North-West."

1885 – April 24 – CPR Telegram: Brandon: Hesson to Major Bell

"Major Bell, Qu'Appelle – Have forty teams mostly good oxen in today from north. Are anxious to know if any chance to hire before going home. Please answer quickly, am waiting. Hesson"

1885 – April 24 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to Quigley

"J. Quigley, Winnipeg. Twenty-two teams passed yesterday for Swift Current. Have any more left Winnipeg? Another week will find us in a very awkward position unless we have more power. We have been forcing on teams to keep up, but have failed & teams are commencing to play out. I have added 100 ox teams & nearly one hundred horse. 160 teams out of 450 we have on this route are with Gen'ls (?) advance to feed them & the men as well take at least 800 teams & we have but three hundred. I can secure three hundred teams in four days here. Consider & realize our position. Please advise. W.R. Bell 1:00 p.m."

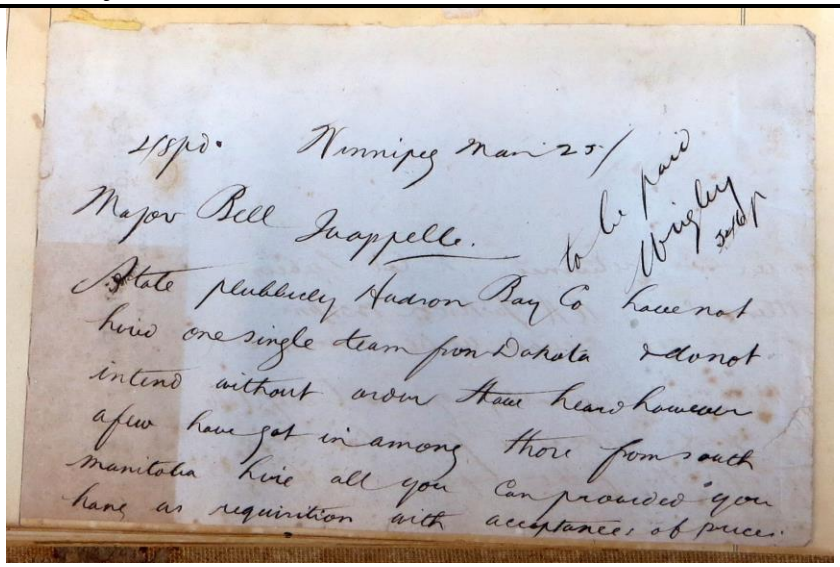

one hundred horse 160 teams
out of the 450 we have on
this route are with Gens advance
to feed them & the men it will
take at least 800 teams &
we have but three hundred
I can secure three hundred
teams in four days here
Consider realize our position
please advise
W R Bell
100pm

1885 – April 24 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Howard to Major Bell

" Maj. Bell, Qu'Appelle – Bawlf offers about one hundred ton hay at $25 to be delivered from time to time all within ten days. Thos. Howard."

1885 – April 25 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: [Unknown author] to Major Bell

"Major Bell, Qu'Appelle. State ___bbicly (?) Hudson's Bay Co. have not hired one single team from Dakota & do not intend without order. Have heard however a few have got in among those from south Manitoba. Hire all you can provided you have a requisition with acceptance of price. " (check originals for missing extra text. And transcripts.

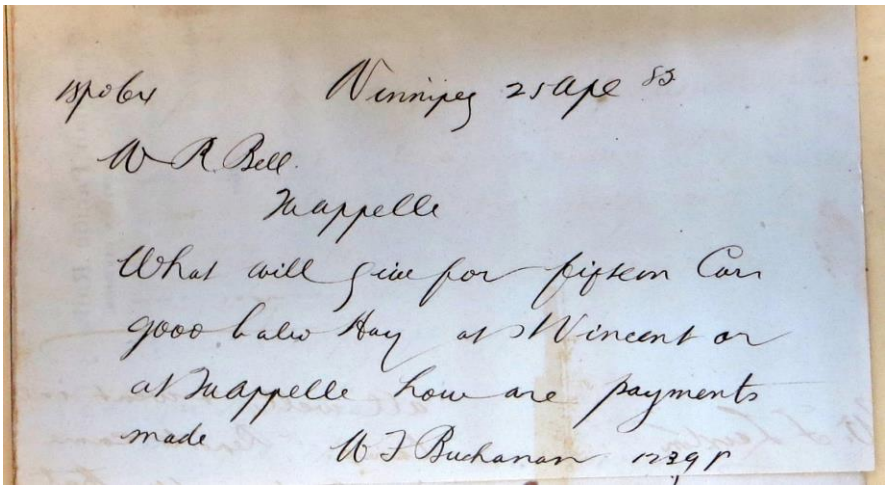


1885 – April 25 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to W.F. Buchanan

"W.F. Buchanan, Wpg. Will give eighteen dollars [for hay] at Emerson. Pay on delivery here. Must be shipped at once. W.R. Bell."

1885 – April 25 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: W.F. Buchanan to Major Bell

"W.R. Bell. Qu'Appelle. What will give for fifteen cars good baled hay at Vincent (?) or at Qu'Appelle? How are payments made? W.F. Buchanan."



1885 – April 25 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Wrigley to Major Bell (1)

"Major Bell, Transport Officer, Qu'Appelle – Agree with you about getting on supplies but I have no power to requisition or to interfere with the transport. The Company's duty is only to supply what is requisitioned for. Will gladly fall in with any arrangement properly authorized. How would carts with oxen & ponies . . . . get rest of telegraph

1885 – April 25 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Wrigley to Major Bell (2)

"Major Bell, Transport Officer, Qu'Appelle. Since telegram, received instruction from Ottawa that everything must be got at lowest possibly price & to get from States if cheaper. We dare

not take responsibility of not acting strictly on this. For what can you get teams and hay. Wire price & quantities. Wrigley."

1885 – April 25 – CPR Telegram: Winnipeg: Wrigley to Capt. Swinford

"Capt. Swinford, Qu'Appelle. Have no objection to new requisition covering whole now on hand with prices stated, but great care must be taken as I have just received instructions from Minister Ottawa for everything to be got at lowest possible price and to buy in States if cheaper. Cannot pay for any for which is mot proper requisition. Do not know whether Gen'l authorized you to requisition for teams as for provisions. Had no authority for Bedson, nor Bell. Better get General or minister. Wrigley.

1885 – April 26 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to Wrigley

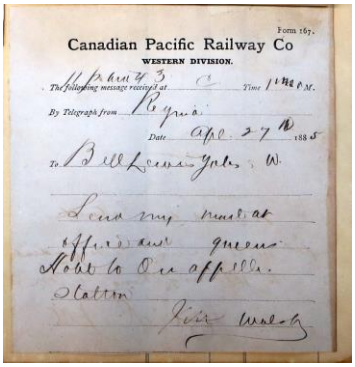
"J. Wriggley. Winnipeg. By authority of General I have been paying eight dollars for best teams, five & seven for inferior, four to six a day for oxen according to condition & size. Pay commencing when they leave here. This I consider cheaper than teams brought from a distance when wages are paid expenses from time they start. However, rather than have Yankees come in will reduce price little say seven half & five half respectively. This will average what you are paying there & the money left in the country. Farmers are now through their seeding & we can get all required between Brandon & Moose Jaw on short notice. Gen. Middleton wires me he has authorized you to honour Bedson's signature on all vouchers connected with transport service. Bedson authorized me to sign his name. Is this sufficient for you? Please reply as something must be done towards paying teamsters. W.R. Bell 1:30 p.m."

1885 – April 26 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Major Bell to Sir John A. Macdonald

"Sir John MacDonald, Ottawa. Teams from Dakota are being sent in for transport services. Farmers here are now through seeding. I offer services from five to seven dollars per day; six fifty travelling expenses bei9ng paid to Americans. Wrigley states this is ordered by Minister in Ottawa. All teams required can be had here. Feeling very much against government for allowing this. Canadian teamsters say they will not allow Americans to work where our men are Loyal ready to fight if necessary. Americans are hard to manage. Please consider for government & Country sake. W.R. Bell, Transport Officer, 12:20 p.m."

1885 – April 27 – CPR Telegram: Regina: J.M. Walsh to Bell, Lewis, Yales (?)

"Bell, Lewis, Yales. Send my _____ at office and Queens Hotel to Qu'Appelle Station. J.M. Walsh."



Form 167.

Canadian Pacific Railway Co

WESTERN DIVISION.

The following message received at ... Time 1 PM.

By Telegraph from Regina

Date Apl 27 1885

To Bell Lewis Yales W.

Send my ... at

Office and Queens

Hotel to Qu'appelle.

Station

Jas Walsh

1885 – April – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
161	April 6, 1885	Adolph Boisevain	Amsterdam	Netherlands
162	"	George R. Harris	Boston, Mass.	United States
163	"	G.W. *Vis*	St. Paul, Minn.	United States
164		*??????……..*	*?????……*	
165	April 22, 1885	H.J. Eberts	Winnipeg	Manitoba – same as # 31 – Hermann J. Eberts
166	April 22, 1885	*A. Miller*	Winnipeg	Manitoba
167	April 29, 1885	W.H. Forrest	….., Quebec	Lt. Col. William H. Forrest
168	"	H. Swinford, N.W.F.F.	Winnipeg, Manitoba	NWFF = North West Field Force – part of General Middleton's forces sent out to quell the NW Rebellion led by Louis Riel

1885 – May – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
169	May 13, 1885	Melgund	No Information	Lord Melgund was the Chief of Staff for General Middleton during the 1885 campaign.

1885 – May ___ – *Nor-West Farmer* – Vol. 4, No. 9 – check for details

1885 – May 4 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – A "Major Bell" to invest in Winnipeg Packing Company

[Frank: not certain if this is Major Bell from Indian Head, or another Major Bell in Winnipeg. However, Duncan MacArthur was on the Board of Directors for the Bell Farm.]

> "**WINNIPEG PACKING COY.** . . . . . The promoters wish the farmers to take an interest in this enterprise. They can take a limited amount of stock and make a successful effort to back up the company with plenty of raw material. The company propose at present limiting the capital stock to $100,000, to be called up as fast as required. This amount is considered to be sufficient for a couple of years to maintain the business on a cash basis. The matter has only taken shape within the last few days, but meantime the following gentlemen have signified their willingness to take

stock: Messrs. Lewis Griffith & Douglas, Duncan MacArthur, Alex. Logan, Alex McIntyre, Major Bell, McBean Bros., and others."

1885 – May 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Major Bell discusses transport at Moose Jaw to rescue stranded steamer NORTHCOTE

"**THE REBELLION. Notes from Moosejaw.** Moosejaw, May 3. – There has been a great stir in our town to-day on account of the arrival of 90 transport wagons last night from Dakota. The outfit started from here about noon to-day for the Elbow to lighten the steamer Northcote which is stuck on the sand bars there. Major Bell brought the party up, and saw them safely off. Nine of the teamsters are armed, but there is no danger apprehended this side of the Elbow, and after that they will have an escort of the troops that are on the steamer. In conversation with your correspondent the Major said the teams were sent up from Fargo at $6 per day, and that though the rate seemed low, it was equal to $10 per day, if the contract called for payment from the time the cars were loaded till the teams arrived back at Fargo, and all found. The Major says he can get all the teams required at $7 per day around Qu'Appelle."

1885 – May 6 – CPR Telegram: Qu'Appelle: Robertson, Boyd & Brooks to J.M. Egan – Indigenous people raid ?

"Jno. M. Egan, Esq. Following just received from Indian Head May 6th – to Col. Scott, Qu'Appelle – File Hill Indians camped within a few miles of here. Send down a detachment of men until we can procure arms & ammunition. Expected they will raid the town for provisions, signed - W.R. Robertson, W.R. Boyd, E.J. Brooks" [Concern for possible raid on Indian Head; but no mention of retreating to the Bell Barn however.]

1885 – May 8 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 4 – Bell and Judge Rouleau at Queen's Hotel (Wpg.)

"**PERSONAL MENTION. The Movements of 'People We Know" . . .** Judge Rouleau, of Battleford, and Major Bell, of Indian Head, are stopping at the Queen's."

1885 – May 13 - _____ (Source ?) – check for details

Arriving at Troy at 10 pm on May 12th, Melgund found that the train to Winnipeg had just left and that he would have to spend the night. The next morning, he heard that Middleton's forces had defeated the Métis the previous day. With this sudden change of circumstances, Melgund "… went over all transport arrangements with Major Bell today … drove out with Major Bell in afternoon to Bell Farm and dined there." That night, at almost 11 pm, he "… left Indian Head by Pullman." He returned to England that fall.

(Extract from article by John Kort, Indian Head, 15 Sept. 2019)

1885 – May 15 - *Southland Times,* New Zealand: Interview with Major Bell while in London, England, 1884 http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=ST18850515.2.26 - Doctor Edmunds of the British Association 1884 tour. (almost identical to his Feb. 13, 1885 London Times interview)

Wheat-Growing in England and Canada.

Dr. Edmunds medical officer of health, St. James', Westminster, writing on this subject, says :—Last autumn I devoted a long holiday of two months chiefly to visiting the farmers who are now dotted about upon the vast alluvial plains of North-West Canada. I spent a week in wandering about at the end of the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia; I spent another week in the city of Winnipeg; I went about among the still living old Scotch settlers who went out with Lord Selkirk, and who still crop their original farms upon the beautiful banks of the Red River, where he so wisely located them; and, among other places, I visited the Bell Farm. I have also had the advantage of prolonged conversations with Major Bell during his present visit to London. The Major tells me that he would gladly attend any meeting to give an account of his agricultural operations, and to answer inquiries; but as only a few people can hope to come into personal contact with him I may, perhaps, shortly call attention to the *data* with which we are now furnished.

Part 1 of 5: 193 kb

The Bell Farm contains 100 square miles of rich alluvial land, practically all fit to put the plough into, and perfectly unencumbered by timber. Its location is in Assiniboia, upon the Canadian Pacific Railway, 312 miles west of Winnipeg. It has its own railway station, which is known as Indian Head, and the whole of this land is being rapidly brought forward for wheat-growing—the school and public building sites only excepted. At the railway station is an elevator where the grain is lodged, and from which it is delivered into the railway cars - each car-load being 500 bushels, and weighing 30,000 lbs. The wheat is sold by the bushel of 60 lbs. weight, and not by measure, inasmuch as large quantities of wheat can be weighed out much more easily than they can be measured. Some of the wheat grown on the Bell Farm has weighed 66lbs. per bushel, but in such case the farmer has the advantage of selling by weight. With poor wheat he would have to bear the disadvantage. Comfortable houses are already built for the laborers; the Major and his family have a handsome residence such as would satisfy a gentleman farmer in England. The horses and cattle are properly

Part 2 of 5: 173 kb

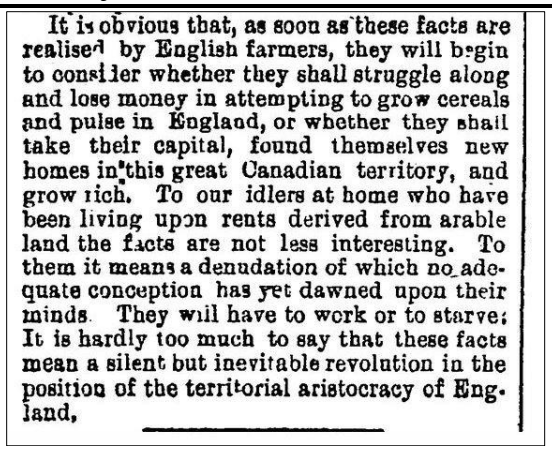
housed; a perfect system of book-keeping shows every detail of the expenditure and other produce; and there are around the Major a number of active young fellows—his pupil-assistants—who are learning to farm with a view to start for themselves at the end of a year or two.

During the 1884 season the Bell Farm has raised 130,000 bushels of grain, and there have been in crop about 6000 acres. The acreage in crop and the produce of the season 1885 are expected to be double those of last season. The cost of the wheat thus grown has to-day been kindly written out for me by the Major. The figures are in decimals of a Canadian dollar—*i.e.*, in cents, of which 100 are equal to 93 6 English halfpence. The cost as given below is per bushel of 60 pounds weight, delivered from the Bell Farm elevator upon the railway station at Indian Head. It is as follows :—Labor, ·07 dols.; horses, ·036 dols.; maintenance of laborers, &c., ·033 dols; cost of seed, amount written off capital account for depreciation of horses, implements, stock, &c., and 8 per cent. upon the purchase money, &c. of the land in crop, ·20 dols.; total, ·34 dols.

Part 3 of 5: 163 kb

Now, multiplying the 34 cents by eight we get the net cost per quarter of the wheat as 272 cents, This is 11s 2d English money. But this is wheat receivable from the elevator at the Indian Head railway station, 312 miles west of Winnipeg, and we have to provide for its transport to England, a distance of 5000 miles. The cost of transport from Indian Head to Liverpool during the last year has been, Major Bell tells me, 11s per quarter, and during the coming years the same rate of freight is expected to rule. This, then, makes the fine hard red Manitoba wheat deliverable in Liverpool so as to pay 8 per cent. in capital invested in land in North-West Canada, so long as wheat shall not fall below 22s or 23s per quarter.

Part 4 of 5: 110 kb



It is obvious that, as soon as these facts are realised by English farmers, they will begin to consider whether they shall struggle along and lose money in attempting to grow cereals and pulse in England, or whether they shall take their capital, found themselves new homes in this great Canadian territory, and grow rich. To our idlers at home who have been living upon rents derived from arable land the facts are not less interesting. To them it means a denudation of which no adequate conception has yet dawned upon their minds. They will have to work or to starve; It is hardly too much to say that these facts mean a silent but inevitable revolution in the position of the territorial aristocracy of England.

Part 5 of 5: 111 kb

1885 – May 19 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell staying at the Queen's Hotel, Wpg.

"**CITY AND PROVINCE.** Major Bell, of Indian Head, is at the Queen's."

1885 – May 21 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

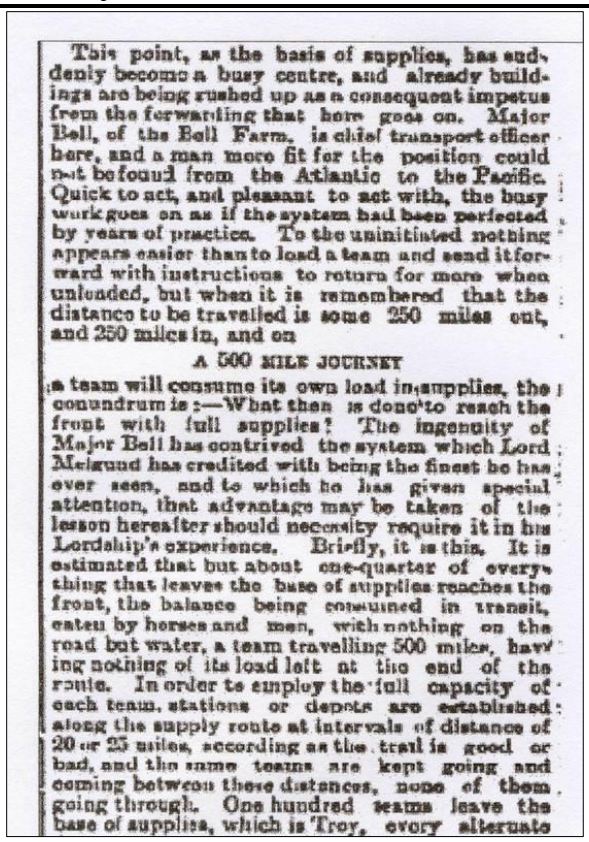
[Lots of details about capture of Riel.] – check for details

Indian Head: "Our 'home guard' are to have a prize rifle match on May 23 . . . handsome prizes."

""Our farmers who have teams in the Transport Service were very happy today by receipt of their first month's pay. Business, in consequent, is rushing."

"Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company's mill is to be open for business on June 1st. This event has been anxiously looked forward to for some time by our farmers, as they expect a market for their good wheat. "

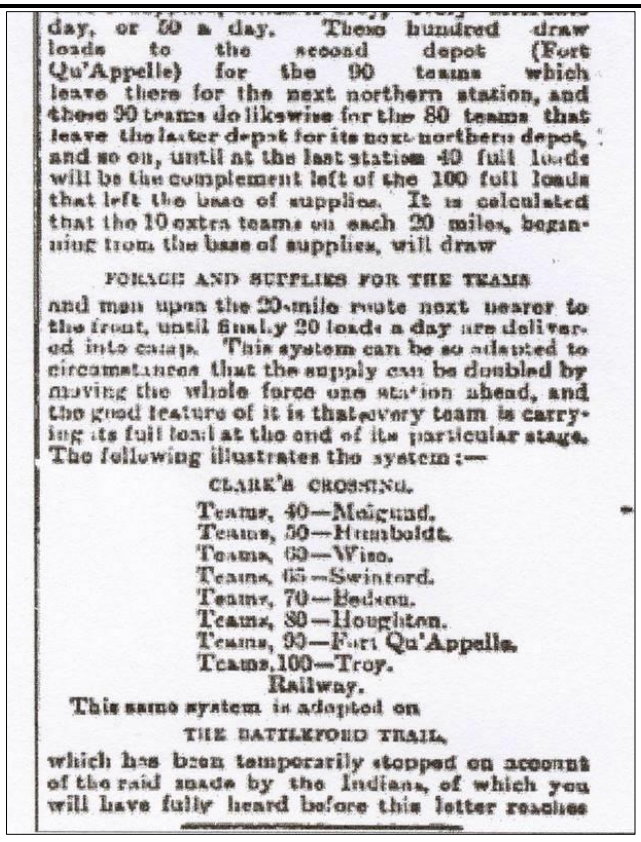
1885 – May 23 – *Toronto Globe* – report on suitability of Major Bell to be the main Transport Officer at Qu'Appelle.



This point, as the basis of supplies, has suddenly become a busy centre, and already buildings are being rushed up as a consequent impetus from the forwarding that here goes on. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is chief transport officer here, and a man more fit for the position could not be found from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Quick to act, and pleasant to act with, the busy work goes on as if the system had been perfected by years of practice. To the uninitiated nothing appears easier than to load a team and send it forward with instructions to return for more when unloaded, but when it is remembered that the distance to be travelled is some 250 miles out, and 250 miles in, and on

A 500 MILE JOURNEY

a team will consume its own load in supplies, the conundrum is:—What then is done to reach the front with full supplies? The ingenuity of Major Bell has contrived the system which Lord Melgund has credited with being the finest he has ever seen, and to which he has given special attention, that advantage may be taken of the lesson hereafter should necessity require it in his Lordship's experience. Briefly, it is this. It is estimated that but about one-quarter of everything that leaves the base of supplies reaches the front, the balance being consumed in transit, eaten by horses and men, with nothing on the road but water, a team travelling 500 miles, having nothing of its load left at the end of the route. In order to employ the full capacity of each team, stations or depots are established along the supply route at intervals of distance of 20 or 25 miles, according as the trail is good or bad, and the same teams are kept going and coming between these distances, none of them going through. One hundred teams leave the base of supplies, which is Troy, every alternate



day, or 50 a day. These hundred draw loads to the second depot (Fort Qu'Appelle) for the 90 teams which leave there for the next northern station, and these 90 teams do likewise for the 80 teams that leave the latter depot for its next northern depot, and so on, until at the last station 40 full loads will be the complement left of the 100 full loads that left the base of supplies. It is calculated that the 10 extra teams on each 20 miles, beginning from the base of supplies, will draw

FORAGE AND SUPPLIES FOR THE TEAMS

and men upon the 20-mile route next nearer to the front, until finally 20 loads a day are delivered into camp. This system can be so adapted to circumstances that the supply can be doubled by moving the whole force one station ahead, and the good feature of it is that every team is carrying its full load at the end of its particular stage. The following illustrates the system:—

CLARK'S CROSSING.

Teams, 40—Melgund.
Teams, 50—Humboldt.
Teams, 60—Wise.
Teams, 65—Swinford.
Teams, 70—Bedson.
Teams, 80—Houghton.
Teams, 90—Fort Qu'Appelle.
Teams, 100—Troy.

Railway.

This same system is adopted on

THE BATTLEFORD TRAIL,

which has been temporarily stopped on account of the raid made by the Indians, of which you will have fully heard before this letter reaches

Part 1 of 2: 816 kb

Part 2 of 2: 643 kb

1885 – May 30 – Adelaide Observer – Australian comments on the Bell Farm, by S. Williamson, M.P.

WHEATGROWING IN MANITOBA.

Mr. S. Williamson, M.P., writes to the *Times* :—

Some weeks since you published a letter on the above subject from Dr. Edmunds, giving a wonderful account of the capabilities of Manitoba for the growing of wheat. Dr. Edmunds spoke in glowing terms of the chances for English colonists with a few hundred pounds of capital, and assured intending colonisers that Major Bell could grow wheat 300 miles west from Winnepeg, and place it in Liverpool for 22s. to 23s. per quarter, including a charge of 8 per cent. on the capital invested.

I have no reason to doubt the bona fides of Dr. Edmunds in drawing these glowing pictures. I do not suppose he has any axe to grind, to use a significant Americanism. But I do think that great caution should be exercised in circulating information which may lead decent men to leave happy homes in England in the pursuit of what is likely to be altogether illusory, while they are more likely to reap, instead of comfort and riches, only bitter trials and disappointments.

I have myself had some experience in the growing of wheat in the Red River Valley. The land there is quite as good as land in Manitoba. It has the advantage of being not very distant from the great flour-milling centre Minneapolis, and I can testify that the prices lately current have been ruinously low. While Major Bell states his cost at 34c. per bushel, I am satisfied that a continuance of the late quotation of 45c. per bushel placed in elevators near the farmers in the Red River Valley would soon ruin everybody, and put the land out of cultivation. Singular to say, the 34c. calculation is exactly that given to me by Mr. Dalrymple, of the Great Fargo Farm, in the Red River Valley, in 1879, and experience proves it to have been utterly deceptive. With a splendid season, and a heavy crop of nearly 30 bushels per acre, the calculation may stand; but with all the contingencies of bad weather, deteriorated quality, extra labour, crops running from say 13 bushels one year to 17 another, 20 bushels a third, and 15 bushels a fourth year; and allowing for summer fallowing every fifth or sixth year, it is in my opinion impossible in Manitoba or Minnesota to grow wheat under a cost of from 16s. to 18s. per quarter, taking one year with another.

Then Dr. Edmunds tells us that this wheat, grown 312 miles west from Winnipeg, can be carried on to Liverpool for 11s. per quarter. This is likewise deceptive. I do not know what the Canadian Pacific Railway may occasionally be tempted to do to induce emigrants to go out, but I would advise all such to get ample assurances from the Company before they attempt to grow wheat in the very centre of North America 1,500 miles from the sea. Founding on a quotation obtained recently from the freight agent at Winnipeg, I give the following calculation :—

Winter freight Moosomin to Montreal, per 100 lb., 84½c., and Bell Farm to Moosomin, 200 miles further, say 15½c., together $1 per 100 lb., equal to, per 480 lb., 19s. Transhipping at Montreal, sacks, ocean freight, insurance, and delivery in Liverpool, say 6s.; cost of carriage, 25s.; cost of wheat, say 17s.—together 42s. a quarter for wheat worth to-day in England about 35s. per 480 lb.

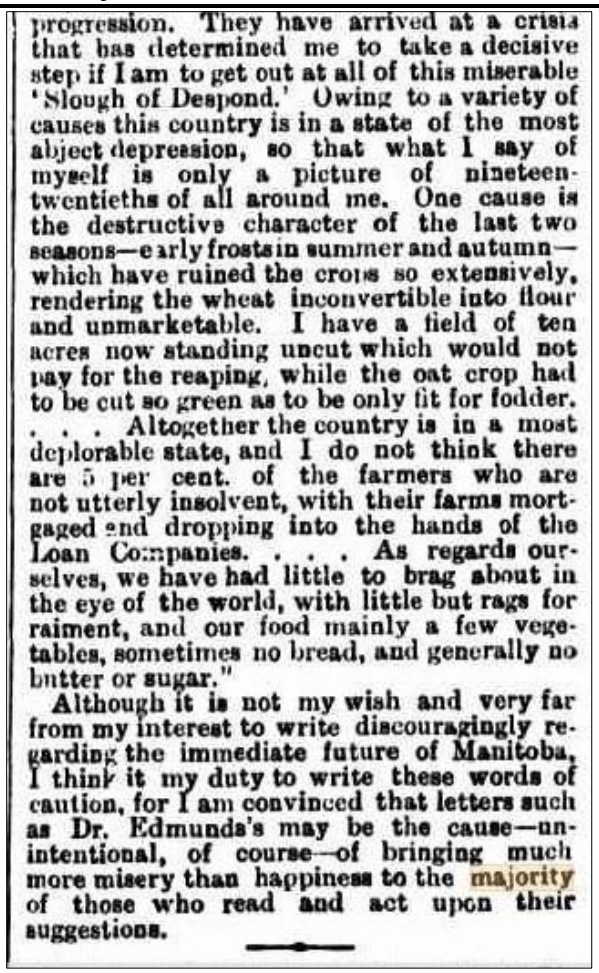
The Canadian Pacific line is a very costly one between Winnipeg and Port Arthur, and whatever abatements they may occasionally make it is clear they have at least to charge the cost of transit. That cannot under any circumstances be small, and the bulk of the grain is, of course, carried in the late autumn and winter.

Dr. Edmunds, as I have said, has painted a glowing picture. Let me, in corroboration of my words of caution, submit the following gloomy one from a farmer in Manitoba – a man of excellent character. It is contained in a letter dated Manitoba, December 11, 1884, addressed to an old friend in England. He says :—

"The times have indeed been hard with me, and seem to grow harder with a steady

Part 1 of 3: 173 kb

Part 2 of 3: 171 kb



progression. They have arrived at a crisis that has determined me to take a decisive step if I am to get out at all of this miserable 'Slough of Despond.' Owing to a variety of causes this country is in a state of the most abject depression, so that what I say of myself is only a picture of nineteen-twentieths of all around me. One cause is the destructive character of the last two seasons—early frosts in summer and autumn—which have ruined the crops so extensively, rendering the wheat inconvertible into flour and unmarketable. I have a field of ten acres now standing uncut which would not pay for the reaping, while the oat crop had to be cut so green as to be only fit for fodder. . . . Altogether the country is in a most deplorable state, and I do not think there are 5 per cent. of the farmers who are not utterly insolvent, with their farms mortgaged and dropping into the hands of the Loan Companies. . . . As regards ourselves, we have had little to brag about in the eye of the world, with little but rags for raiment, and our food mainly a few vegetables, sometimes no bread, and generally no butter or sugar."

Although it is not my wish and very far from my interest to write discouragingly regarding the immediate future of Manitoba, I think it my duty to write these words of caution, for I am convinced that letters such as Dr. Edmunds's may be the cause—unintentional, of course—of bringing much more misery than happiness to the majority of those who read and act upon their suggestions.

Part 3 of 3: 117 kb

1885 – June 4 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

[still "Rebellion" news] – check for details

Indian Head: Rifle match between country and town home guards as part of celebration of Queen's Birthday. (May 24) – includes names of some home guard members

"Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company are building a dam across Spring Creek near north side of railway for water supply to their new flouring mill." Mill will have 50 hp engine and is expected to be open for business soon.

Cricket club formed. A.J. Osment vice president.

"All the boys who were out on transport service will be home in a few days, and red painting will then be in order."

1885 – June 11 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

[More Rebellion updates.] – check for details

Indian Head: "The new flouring mill machinery was started today (Tuesday) by Mr. Pye of Minneapolis, Minn. Everything worked splendidly and grinding will be commenced in a few days."

1885 – June 15 - *Manitoba Free Press* – Grain Elevator article:

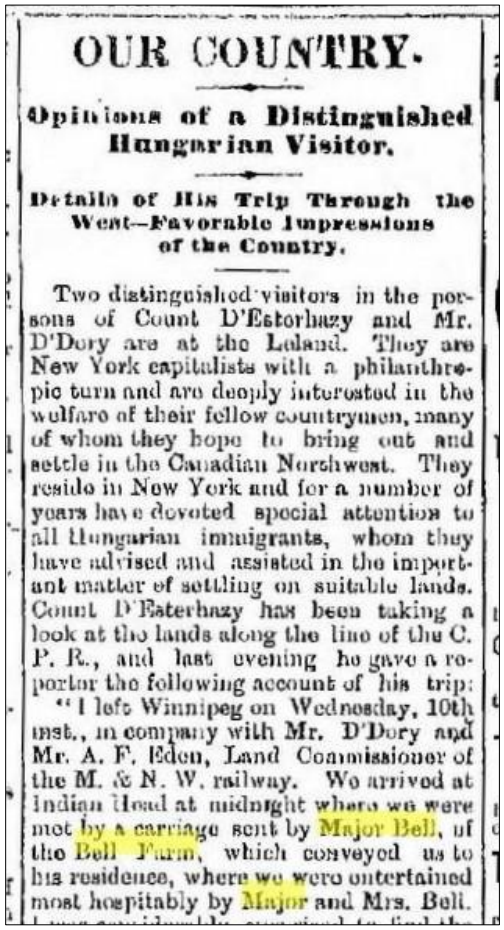
> "**INDIAN HEAD** – The First Flour. Indian Head, June 14 – The Bell farm flouring mill was opened for public grists on Friday. Jack, chief of the Assiniboines, presented the first wheat for grist, and carried away the first flour made at Indian Head. As the wheat he had was growing on his reserve, it speaks well for his Indians."

1885 – June 18 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> "Indian Head. Count d'Esterhazy and G. Dory de Tobbahaza, Hungarian nobles, and A.F. Eden of Winnipeg, were guests of Mrs. and Major Bell this week." *(both signed the Bell Farm Visitors Register)*

> "The flouring mill is now open to the public. Mr. D. Cook, of Minneapolis, is in charge of the machinery, and Mr. Harvey, of this place, is looking after the rollers. The first public grist received into, and the first flour turned out of, the mill, was the property of and belonged to Jack, the chief of the Assiniboines, whose reserve is south of here. The wheat presented by him was excellent, and is part of what was grown on his reserve during the past season. This speaks well for our Indians, and shows plainly what they can do if they have competent instructors."

1885 – June 19 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Count D'Esterhazy and Mr. D'Dory visit Bell Farm



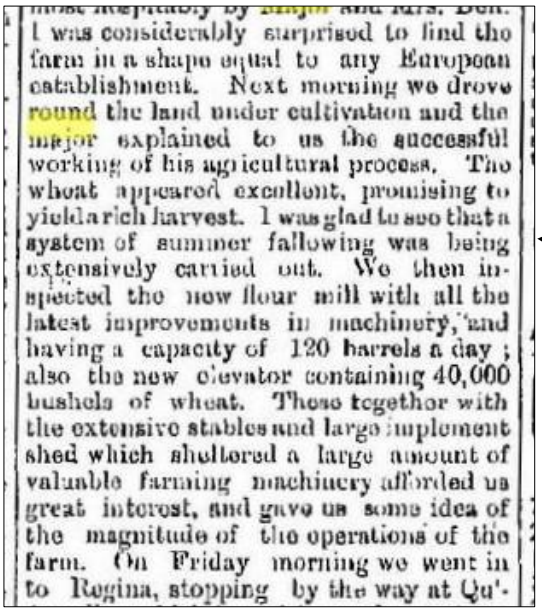
OUR COUNTRY.

Opinions of a Distinguished Hungarian Visitor.

Details of His Trip Through the West—Favorable Impressions of the Country.

Two distinguished visitors in the persons of Count D'Esterhazy and Mr. D'Dory are at the Leland. They are New York capitalists with a philanthropic turn and are deeply interested in the welfare of their fellow countrymen, many of whom they hope to bring out and settle in the Canadian Northwest. They reside in New York and for a number of years have devoted special attention to all Hungarian immigrants, whom they have advised and assisted in the important matter of settling on suitable lands. Count D'Esterhazy has been taking a look at the lands along the line of the C. P. R., and last evening he gave a reporter the following account of his trip:

"I left Winnipeg on Wednesday, 10th inst., in company with Mr. D'Dory and Mr. A. F. Eden, Land Commissioner of the M. & N. W. railway. We arrived at Indian Head at midnight where we were met by a carriage sent by Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, which conveyed us to his residence, where we were entertained most hospitably by Major and Mrs. Bell.



I was considerably surprised to find the farm in a shape equal to any European establishment. Next morning we drove round the land under cultivation and the major explained to us the successful working of his agricultural process. The wheat appeared excellent, promising to yield a rich harvest. I was glad to see that a system of summer fallowing was being extensively carried out. We then inspected the new flour mill with all the latest improvements in machinery, and having a capacity of 120 barrels a day; also the new elevator containing 40,000 bushels of wheat. These together with the extensive stables and large implement shed which sheltered a large amount of valuable farming machinery afforded us great interest, and gave us some idea of the magnitude of the operations of the farm. On Friday morning we went in to Regina, stopping by the way at Qu'-

Part 1 of 2: 126 kb Part 2 of 2: 104 kb summer fallow being used in 1885

1885 – 20 June – Otago Witness, New Zealand - also refers to Major Bell touring in England

http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=OW18850620.1.7&e=-------10--61----2%22Bell+farm%22-- Major Bell "lecturing in Britain"

1885 – June 25 – July 9 - Qu'Appelle Vidette, p. __

[(July 9 - date when Big Bear is captured, continues Rebellion news] – check for details

1885 – June 30 – as reported in the July 9 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 7 – Sir Henry Tyler visits Bell Farm

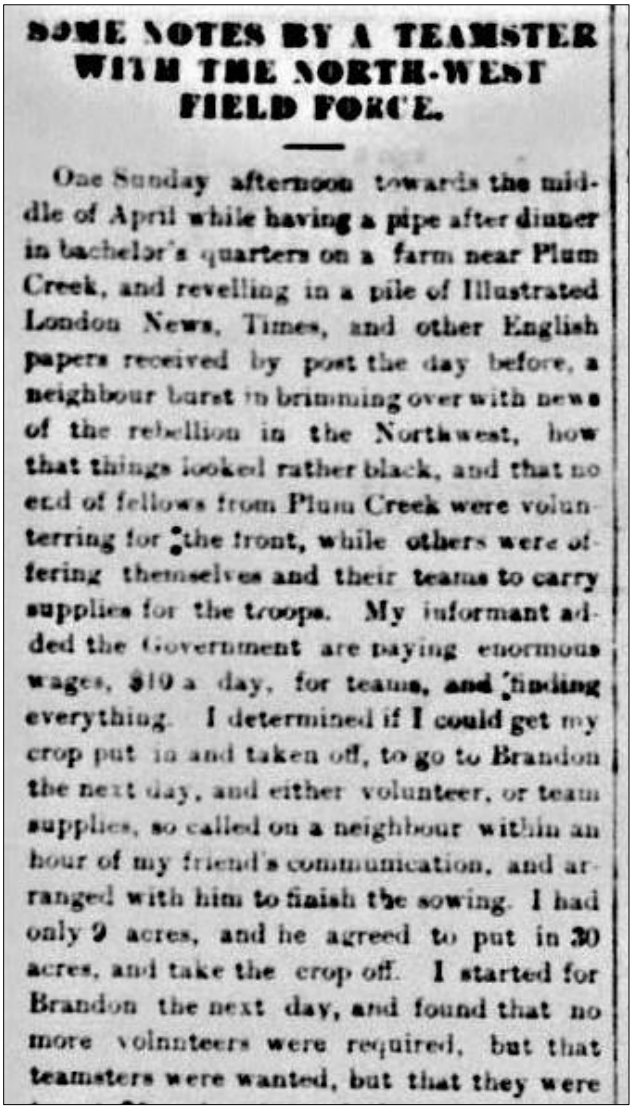
"**SIR HENRY TYLER – What He has to say about the Rockies.** Sir Henry Tyler and party, accompanied by superintendent Egan, arrived back from the Rocky Mountains yesterday morning about 5 o-clock. To a reporter he gave the benefit of some observations he made during the trip. The Bell farm was visited and the party escorted over it by Major Bell. Sir Henry was very much pleased with all the arrangements, and formed a high opinion of the mode of farming adopted on the farm. He also saw the steam roller mill at work. The crops, he said, looked very well, as they also did on the experimental farm which were visited. . . . . "

1885 – June - Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
170	June 4, 1885	R. V. Martinsen	New York	United States – Rudolph V. Martinsen was an American financier and a Director of the Canadian Pacific Railway.
171	10 June 1885	*Cy* Henty	London, England	
172	June 11, 1885	Count d'Esterhazy	New York City	United States – Hungarian nobleman travelling in North America; established settlement at Esterhazy
173		G. Dory de Tobbahaza	New York	United States – Hungarian nobleman travelling in North America
174		Arthur. F. Eden	Winnipeg	Manitoba – investor in the Bell Farm in 1886 Ref: Ed Morgan History, p. 55
175	June 13, 1885	Robert J. Boyd, L.R.C. Pte	London, England	
176		Claude Hamilton	Ayr, Scotland	
177	June 30, 1885	H.H. Tyler	Pymmes Park, Edmonton, England	Sir Henry Tyler
178		Edmond *....sis*	Toronto, Canada	Ontario
179		*…???…enton*	London, England	
180		C.W. Tyler	London	England

181		*Gay…. R.* Hughes	Maldon, England	

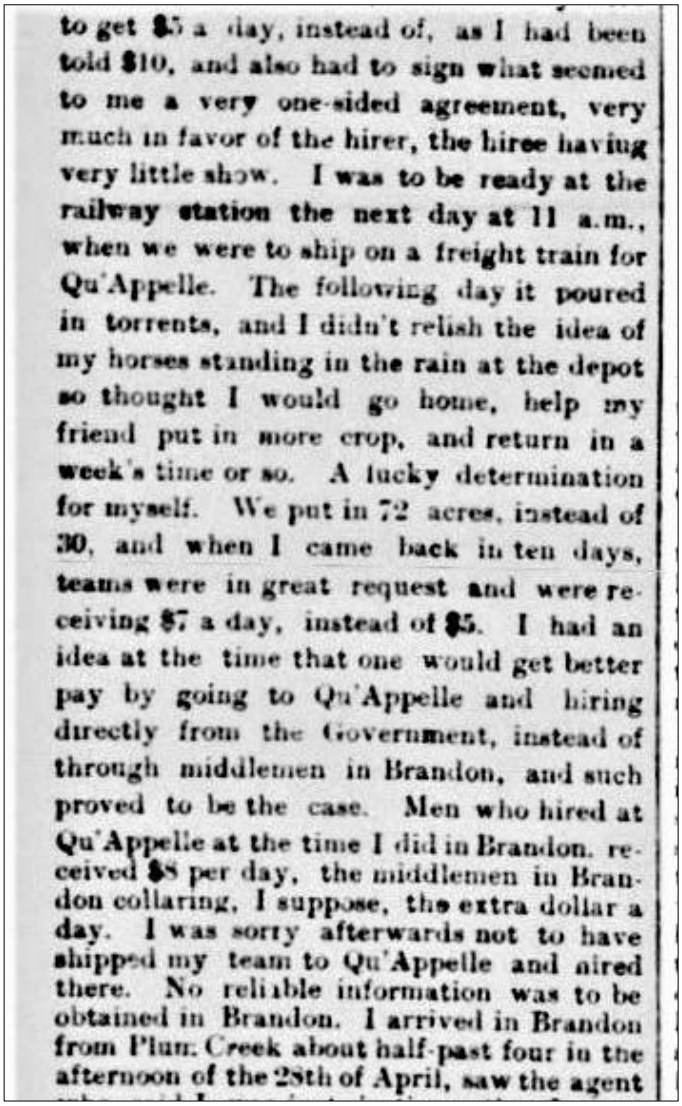
1885 – July 2 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 12 – Notes from a Rebellion era Teamster, including Bell Farm – very interesting



SOME NOTES BY A TEAMSTER WITH THE NORTH-WEST FIELD FORCE.

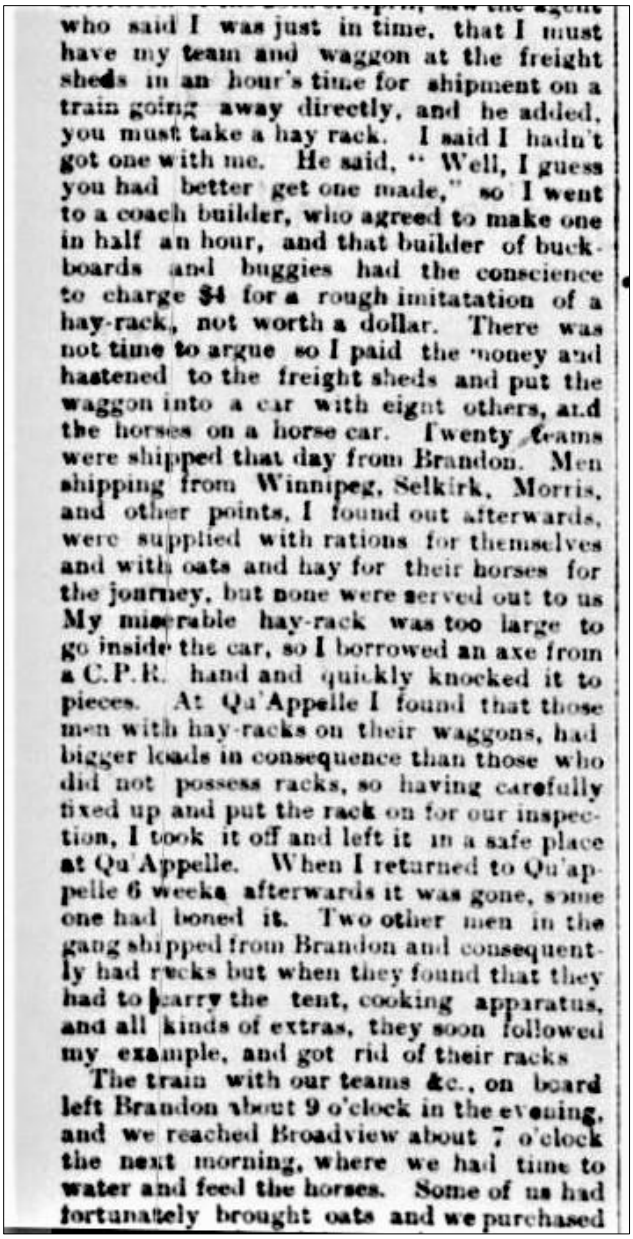
One Sunday afternoon towards the middle of April while having a pipe after dinner in bachelor's quarters on a farm near Plum Creek, and revelling in a pile of Illustrated London News, Times, and other English papers received by post the day before, a neighbour burst in brimming over with news of the rebellion in the Northwest, how that things looked rather black, and that no end of fellows from Plum Creek were volunterring for the front, while others were offering themselves and their teams to carry supplies for the troops. My informant added the Government are paying enormous wages, $10 a day, for teams, and finding everything. I determined if I could get my crop put in and taken off, to go to Brandon the next day, and either volunteer, or team supplies, so called on a neighbour within an hour of my friend's communication, and arranged with him to finish the sowing. I had only 9 acres, and he agreed to put in 30 acres, and take the crop off. I started for Brandon the next day, and found that no more volunteers were required, but that teamsters were wanted, but that they were

Part 1 of 10



to get $5 a day, instead of, as I had been told $10, and also had to sign what seemed to me a very one-sided agreement, very much in favor of the hirer, the hiree having very little show. I was to be ready at the railway station the next day at 11 a.m., when we were to ship on a freight train for Qu'Appelle. The following day it poured in torrents, and I didn't relish the idea of my horses standing in the rain at the depot so thought I would go home, help my friend put in more crop, and return in a week's time or so. A lucky determination for myself. We put in 72 acres, instead of 30, and when I came back in ten days, teams were in great request and were receiving $7 a day, instead of $5. I had an idea at the time that one would get better pay by going to Qu'Appelle and hiring directly from the Government, instead of through middlemen in Brandon, and such proved to be the case. Men who hired at Qu'Appelle at the time I did in Brandon, received $8 per day, the middlemen in Brandon collaring, I suppose, the extra dollar a day. I was sorry afterwards not to have shipped my team to Qu'Appelle and hired there. No reliable information was to be obtained in Brandon. I arrived in Brandon from Plum Creek about half-past four in the afternoon of the 28th of April, saw the agent

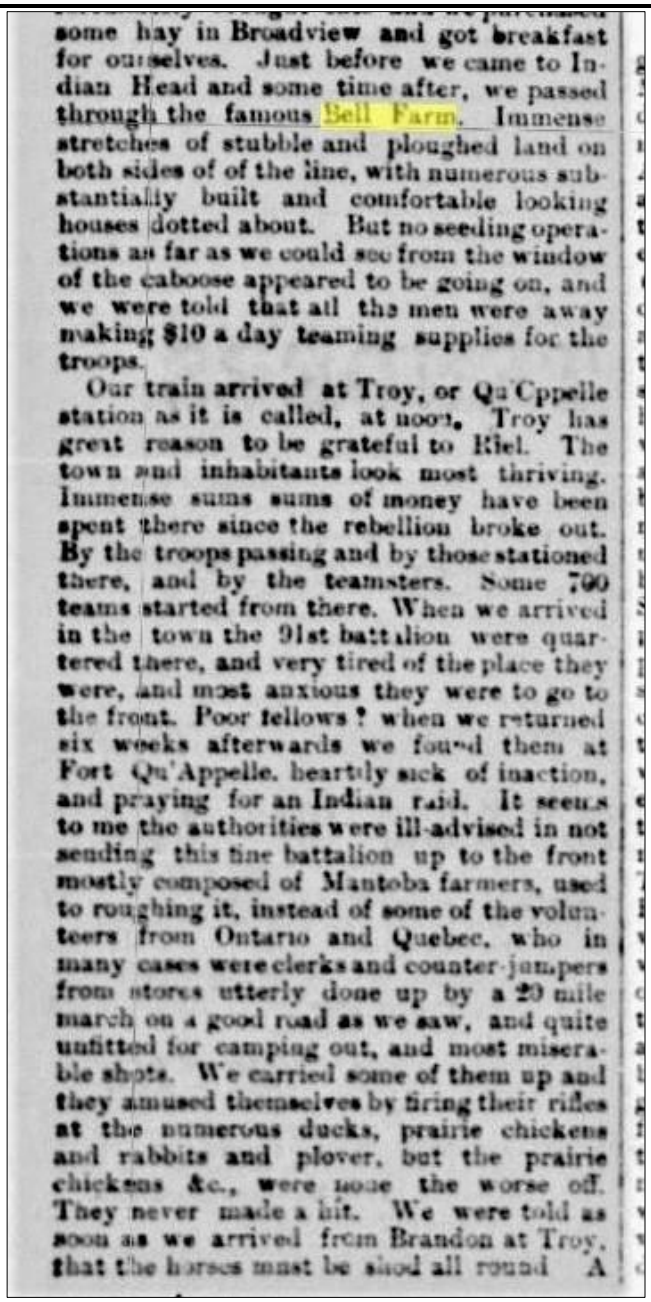
Part 2 of 10



who said I was just in time, that I must have my team and waggon at the freight sheds in an hour's time for shipment on a train going away directly, and he added, you must take a hay rack. I said I hadn't got one with me. He said, " Well, I guess you had better get one made," so I went to a coach builder, who agreed to make one in half an hour, and that builder of buck-boards and buggies had the conscience to charge $4 for a rough imitatation of a hay-rack, not worth a dollar. There was not time to argue so I paid the money and hastened to the freight sheds and put the waggon into a car with eight others, and the horses on a horse car. Twenty teams were shipped that day from Brandon. Men shipping from Winnipeg, Selkirk, Morris, and other points, I found out afterwards, were supplied with rations for themselves and with oats and hay for their horses for the journey, but none were served out to us My miserable hay-rack was too large to go inside the car, so I borrowed an axe from a C.P.R. hand and quickly knocked it to pieces. At Qu'Appelle I found that those men with hay-racks on their waggons, had bigger loads in consequence than those who did not possess racks, so having carefully fixed up and put the rack on for our inspection, I took it off and left it in a safe place at Qu'Appelle. When I returned to Qu'appelle 6 weeks afterwards it was gone, some one had boned it. Two other men in the gang shipped from Brandon and consequently had racks but when they found that they had to carry the tent, cooking apparatus, and all kinds of extras, they soon followed my example, and got rid of their racks

The train with our teams &c., on board left Brandon about 9 o'clock in the evening, and we reached Broadview about 7 o'clock the next morning, where we had time to water and feed the horses. Some of us had fortunately brought oats and we purchased

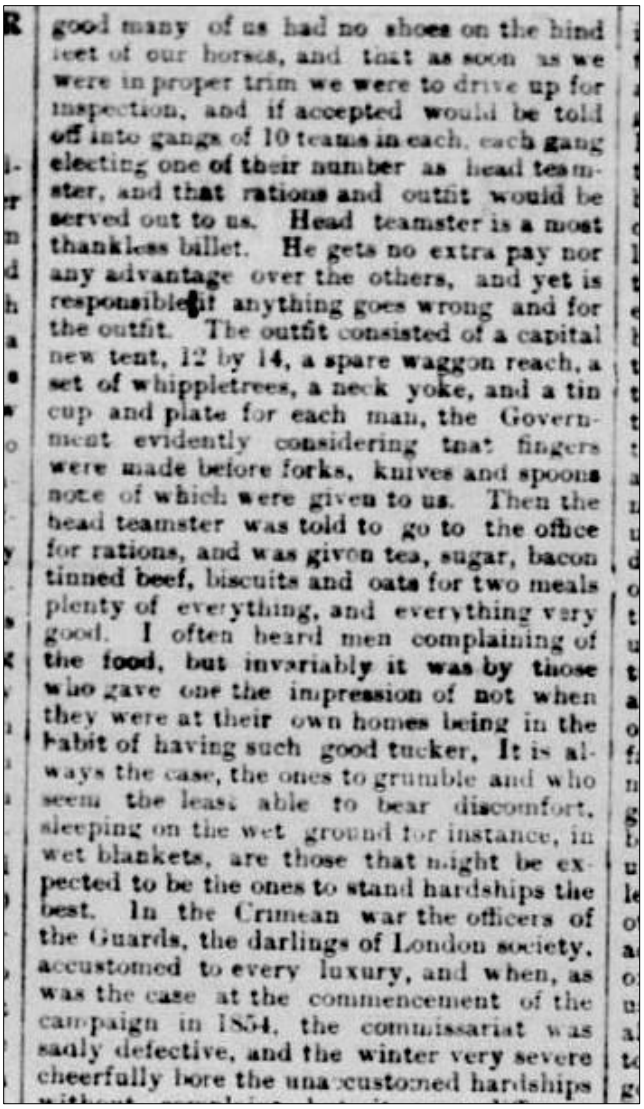
Part 3 of 10



some hay in Broadview and got breakfast for ourselves. Just before we came to Indian Head and some time after, we passed through the famous Bell Farm. Immense stretches of stubble and ploughed land on both sides of of the line, with numerous substantially built and comfortable looking houses dotted about. But no seeding operations as far as we could see from the window of the caboose appeared to be going on, and we were told that all the men were away making $10 a day teaming supplies for the troops.

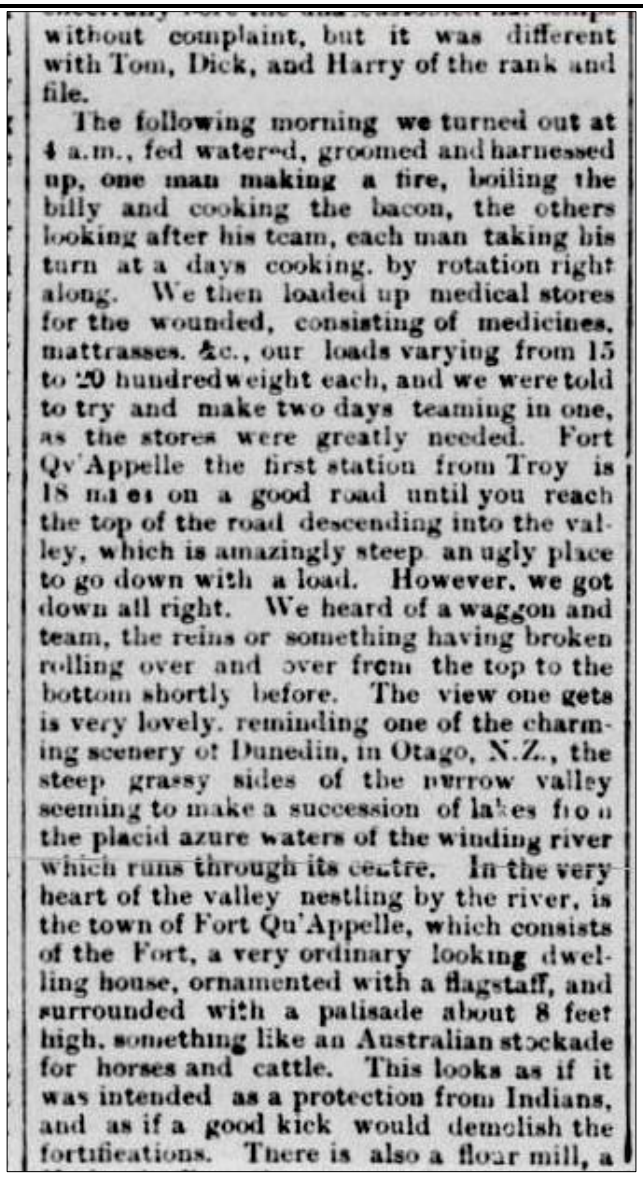
Our train arrived at Troy, or Qu'Cppelle station as it is called, at noon. Troy has great reason to be grateful to Riel. The town and inhabitants look most thriving. Immense sums sums of money have been spent there since the rebellion broke out. By the troops passing and by those stationed there, and by the teamsters. Some 700 teams started from there. When we arrived in the town the 91st battalion were quartered there, and very tired of the place they were, and most anxious they were to go to the front. Poor fellows ? when we returned six weeks afterwards we found them at Fort Qu'Appelle, heartily sick of inaction, and praying for an Indian raid. It seems to me the authorities were ill-advised in not sending this fine battalion up to the front mostly composed of Mantoba farmers, used to roughing it, instead of some of the volunteers from Ontario and Quebec, who in many cases were clerks and counter-jumpers from stores utterly done up by a 20 mile march on a good road as we saw, and quite unfitted for camping out, and most miserable shots. We carried some of them up and they amused themselves by firing their rifles at the numerous ducks, prairie chickens and rabbits and plover, but the prairie chickens &c., were none the worse off. They never made a hit. We were told as soon as we arrived from Brandon at Troy, that the horses must be shod all round A

Part 4 of 10



good many of us had no shoes on the hind feet of our horses, and that as soon as we were in proper trim we were to drive up for inspection, and if accepted would be told off into gangs of 10 teams in each, each gang electing one of their number as head teamster, and that rations and outfit would be served out to us. Head teamster is a most thankless billet. He gets no extra pay nor any advantage over the others, and yet is responsible if anything goes wrong and for the outfit. The outfit consisted of a capital new tent, 12 by 14, a spare waggon reach, a set of whippletrees, a neck yoke, and a tin cup and plate for each man, the Government evidently considering that fingers were made before forks, knives and spoons none of which were given to us. Then the head teamster was told to go to the office for rations, and was given tea, sugar, bacon tinned beef, biscuits and oats for two meals plenty of everything, and everything very good. I often heard men complaining of the food, but invariably it was by those who gave one the impression of not when they were at their own homes being in the habit of having such good tucker. It is always the case, the ones to grumble and who seem the least able to bear discomfort, sleeping on the wet ground for instance, in wet blankets, are those that might be expected to be the ones to stand hardships the best. In the Crimean war the officers of the Guards, the darlings of London society, accustomed to every luxury, and when, as was the case at the commencement of the campaign in 1854, the commissariat was sadly defective, and the winter very severe cheerfully bore the unaccustomed hardships

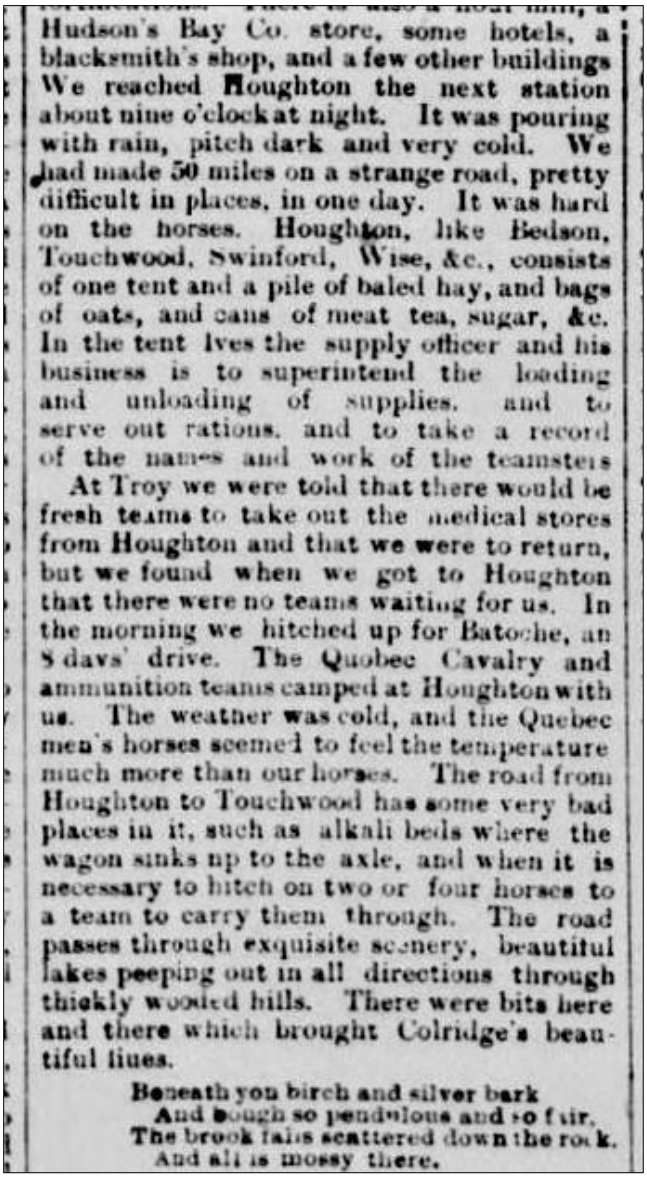
Part 5 of 10



without complaint, but it was different with Tom, Dick, and Harry of the rank and file.

The following morning we turned out at 4 a.m., fed watered, groomed and harnessed up, one man making a fire, boiling the billy and cooking the bacon, the others looking after his team, each man taking his turn at a days cooking, by rotation right along. We then loaded up medical stores for the wounded, consisting of medicines, mattrasses, &c., our loads varying from 15 to 20 hundredweight each, and we were told to try and make two days teaming in one, as the stores were greatly needed. Fort Qu'Appelle the first station from Troy is 18 miles on a good road until you reach the top of the road descending into the valley, which is amazingly steep an ugly place to go down with a load. However, we got down all right. We heard of a waggon and team, the reins or something having broken rolling over and over from the top to the bottom shortly before. The view one gets is very lovely, reminding one of the charming scenery of Dunedin, in Otago, N.Z., the steep grassy sides of the narrow valley seeming to make a succession of lakes from the placid azure waters of the winding river which runs through its centre. In the very heart of the valley nestling by the river, is the town of Fort Qu'Appelle, which consists of the Fort, a very ordinary looking dwelling house, ornamented with a flagstaff, and surrounded with a palisade about 8 feet high, something like an Australian stockade for horses and cattle. This looks as if it was intended as a protection from Indians, and as if a good kick would demolish the fortifications. There is also a flour mill, a

Part 6 of 10

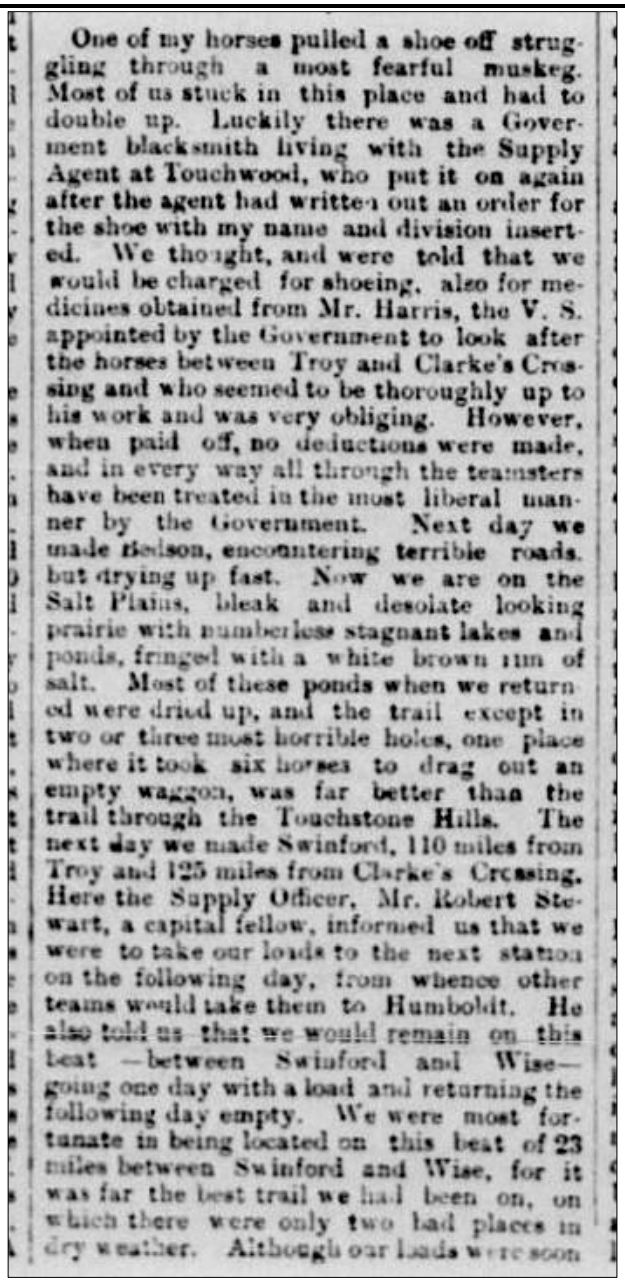


Hudson's Bay Co. store, some hotels, a blacksmith's shop, and a few other buildings We reached Houghton the next station about nine o'clock at night. It was pouring with rain, pitch dark and very cold. We had made 50 miles on a strange road, pretty difficult in places, in one day. It was hard on the horses. Houghton, like Bedson, Touchwood, Swinford, Wise, &c., consists of one tent and a pile of baled hay, and bags of oats, and cans of meat tea, sugar, &c. In the tent lives the supply officer and his business is to superintend the loading and unloading of supplies, and to serve out rations, and to take a record of the names and work of the teamsters

At Troy we were told that there would be fresh teams to take out the medical stores from Houghton and that we were to return, but we found when we got to Houghton that there were no teams waiting for us. In the morning we hitched up for Batoche, an 8 days' drive. The Quebec Cavalry and ammunition teams camped at Houghton with us. The weather was cold, and the Quebec men's horses seemed to feel the temperature much more than our horses. The road from Houghton to Touchwood has some very bad places in it, such as alkali beds where the wagon sinks up to the axle, and when it is necessary to hitch on two or four horses to a team to carry them through. The road passes through exquisite scenery, beautiful lakes peeping out in all directions through thickly wooded hills. There were bits here and there which brought Colridge's beautiful lines.

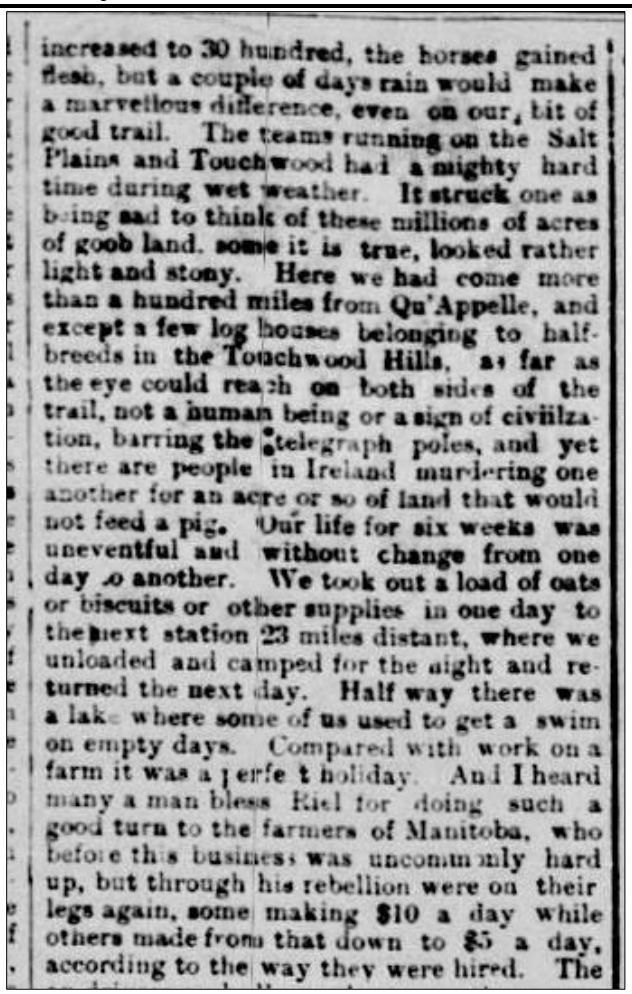
Beneath yon birch and silver bark
And bough so pendulous and so fair,
The brook falls scattered down the rock.
And all is mossy there.

Part 7 of 10



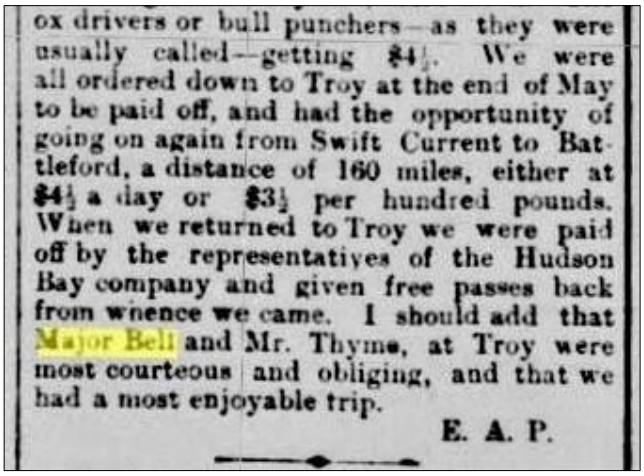
One of my horses pulled a shoe off struggling through a most fearful muskeg. Most of us stuck in this place and had to double up. Luckily there was a Government blacksmith living with the Supply Agent at Touchwood, who put it on again after the agent had written out an order for the shoe with my name and division inserted. We thought, and were told that we would be charged for shoeing, also for medicines obtained from Mr. Harris, the V. S. appointed by the Government to look after the horses between Troy and Clarke's Crossing and who seemed to be thoroughly up to his work and was very obliging. However, when paid off, no deductions were made, and in every way all through the teamsters have been treated in the most liberal manner by the Government. Next day we made Bedson, encountering terrible roads, but drying up fast. Now we are on the Salt Plains, bleak and desolate looking prairie with numberless stagnant lakes and ponds, fringed with a white brown rim of salt. Most of these ponds when we returned were dried up, and the trail except in two or three most horrible holes, one place where it took six horses to drag out an empty waggon, was far better than the trail through the Touchstone Hills. The next day we made Swinford, 110 miles from Troy and 125 miles from Clarke's Crossing. Here the Supply Officer, Mr. Robert Stewart, a capital fellow, informed us that we were to take our loads to the next station on the following day, from whence other teams would take them to Humboldt. He also told us that we would remain on this beat —between Swinford and Wise— going one day with a load and returning the following day empty. We were most fortunate in being located on this beat of 23 miles between Swinford and Wise, for it was far the best trail we had been on, on which there were only two bad places in dry weather. Although our loads were soon

Part 8 of 10



increased to 30 hundred, the horses gained flesh, but a couple of days rain would make a marvellous difference, even on our bit of good trail. The teams running on the Salt Plains and Touchwood had a mighty hard time during wet weather. It struck one as being sad to think of these millions of acres of good land, some it is true, looked rather light and stony. Here we had come more than a hundred miles from Qu'Appelle, and except a few log houses belonging to half-breeds in the Touchwood Hills, as far as the eye could reach on both sides of the trail, not a human being or a sign of civilization, barring the telegraph poles, and yet there are people in Ireland murdering one another for an acre or so of land that would not feed a pig. Our life for six weeks was uneventful and without change from one day to another. We took out a load of oats or biscuits or other supplies in one day to the next station 23 miles distant, where we unloaded and camped for the night and returned the next day. Half way there was a lake where some of us used to get a swim on empty days. Compared with work on a farm it was a perfect holiday. And I heard many a man bless Riel for doing such a good turn to the farmers of Manitoba, who before this business was uncommonly hard up, but through his rebellion were on their legs again, some making $10 a day while others made from that down to $5 a day, according to the way they were hired. The

Part 9 of 10



ox drivers or bull punchers—as they were usually called—getting $4½. We were all ordered down to Troy at the end of May to be paid off, and had the opportunity of going on again from Swift Current to Battleford, a distance of 160 miles, either at $4½ a day or $3½ per hundred pounds. When we returned to Troy we were paid off by the representatives of the Hudson Bay company and given free passes back from whence we came. I should add that Major Bell and Mr. Thyme, at Troy were most courteous and obliging, and that we had a most enjoyable trip.

E. A. P.

Part 10 of 10

1885 – July 3 – *The Northwestern Miller* – Bell Farm Flour Mill

> "Jas. Pye, of the Pray Mfg. Co., returned last week from Indian Head, N.W.Ty., where he started up the new 125 bbl mill which his company built for the Qu'Appelle Farming Co."

1885 – July 9 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 7 – Sir Henry Tyler visits Bell Farm flour mill, and Rockies

> "**SIR HENRY TYLER - What he has to say about the Rockies** - Sir Henry Tyler and party, accompanied by Superintendent Egan, arrived back from the Rocky Mountains yesterday morning about 5 o-clock. To a reporter he gave the benefit of some observations he made during the trip. The Bell farm was visited and the party escorted over it by Major Bell. Sir Henry was very much pleased with all the arrangements, and formed a high opinion of the mode of farming adopted on the farm. He also saw the steam roller mill at work. The crops, he said, looked very well, as they also did on the experimental farms which were visited. Sir Henry was enthusiastic over the mountain scenery . . . ."

1885 –July 9 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

[Indian Head and dated July 1, cricket match at Indian Head between Qu'Appelle District and the 91st Battalion.]
"For the military, Hodson, Bell and Laidlaw played well and for the Qu'Appelle District Resser, Tregent and Major Bell displayed very good form."

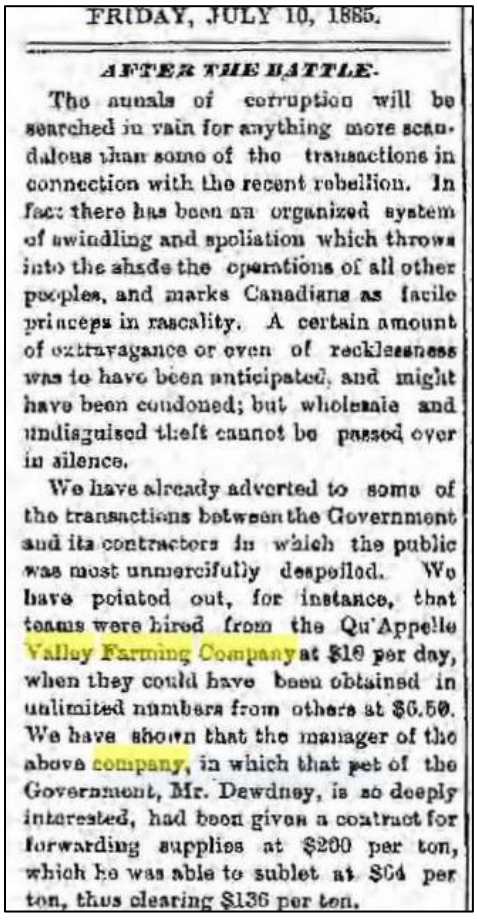
1885 – July 9 – *North-Manchester Journal, Indiana*, p. 4 – Bell Farm report, based on Pall Mall article

"***USEFUL HINTS*. . . . .** The *Pall Mall Gazette* gives the purport of a conversation had by a correspondent with Major Bell, of the Qu'Appelle River farming charge of Bell farm, in the Canadian Northwest, and states that of the 54,000 acres of which the farm consists 13,000 acres were under cultivation last year. The average yield of over 1,000 acres was twenty-five to thirty bushels of wheat an acre, and the crop can be made ready for shipment at a cost to the producer of thirty-four cents."

1885 – July 10 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Bell and Sinclair: Movement of troops at Clarke's Crossing

"**THE TROOPS ! At Moose Jaw.** Moose Jaw, July 9. – A number of teams ordered out yesterday to transport the Seventh Fusiliers from Clarke's Crossing were recalled this morning by Major Bell, but were again ordered out this evening by W. R. Sinclair, chief of transport at Clarke's Crossing, and will leave to-morrow at 6."

1885 – July 10 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Lengthy anti-Conservative government article relating to supposed irregularities of transport supplies during the Rebellion, including this 2 part extract mentioning the Bell Farm (Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company):



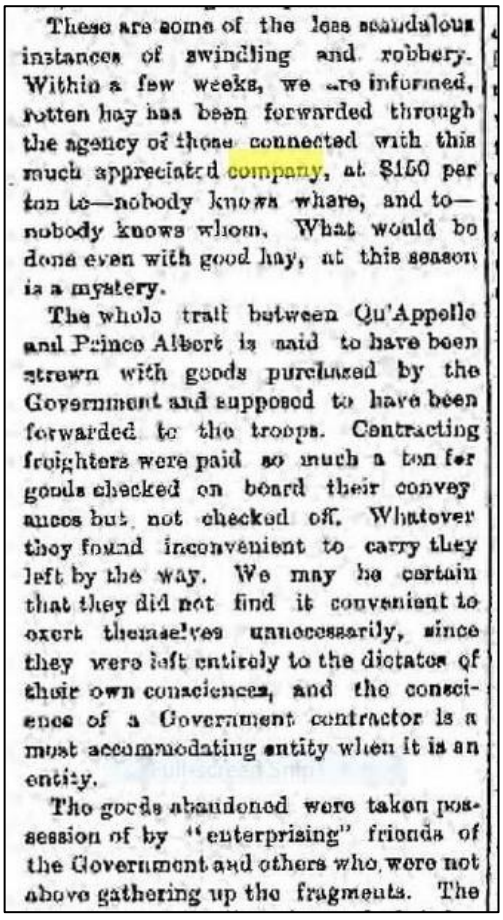
FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1885.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

The annals of corruption will be searched in vain for anything more scandalous than some of the transactions in connection with the recent rebellion. In fact there has been an organized system of swindling and spoliation which throws into the shade the operations of all other peoples, and marks Canadians as facile princeps in rascality. A certain amount of extravagance or even of recklessness was to have been anticipated, and might have been condoned; but wholesale and undisguised theft cannot be passed over in silence.

We have already adverted to some of the transactions between the Government and its contractors in which the public was most unmercifully despoiled. We have pointed out, for instance, that teams were hired from the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company at $10 per day, when they could have been obtained in unlimited numbers from others at $6.50. We have shown that the manager of the above company, in which that pet of the Government, Mr. Dewdney, is so deeply interested, had been given a contract for forwarding supplies at $200 per ton, which he was able to sublet at $64 per ton, thus clearing $136 per ton.

Part 1 of 6



These are some of the less scandalous instances of swindling and robbery. Within a few weeks, we are informed, rotten hay has been forwarded through the agency of those connected with this much appreciated company, at $150 per ton to—nobody knows where, and to—nobody knows whom. What would be done even with good hay, at this season is a mystery.

The whole trail between Qu'Appelle and Prince Albert is said to have been strewn with goods purchased by the Government and supposed to have been forwarded to the troops. Contracting freighters were paid so much a ton for goods checked on board their conveyances but not checked off. Whatever they found inconvenient to carry they left by the way. We may be certain that they did not find it convenient to exert themselves unnecessarily, since they were left entirely to the dictates of their own consciences, and the consciences of a Government contractor is a most accommodating entity when it is an entity.

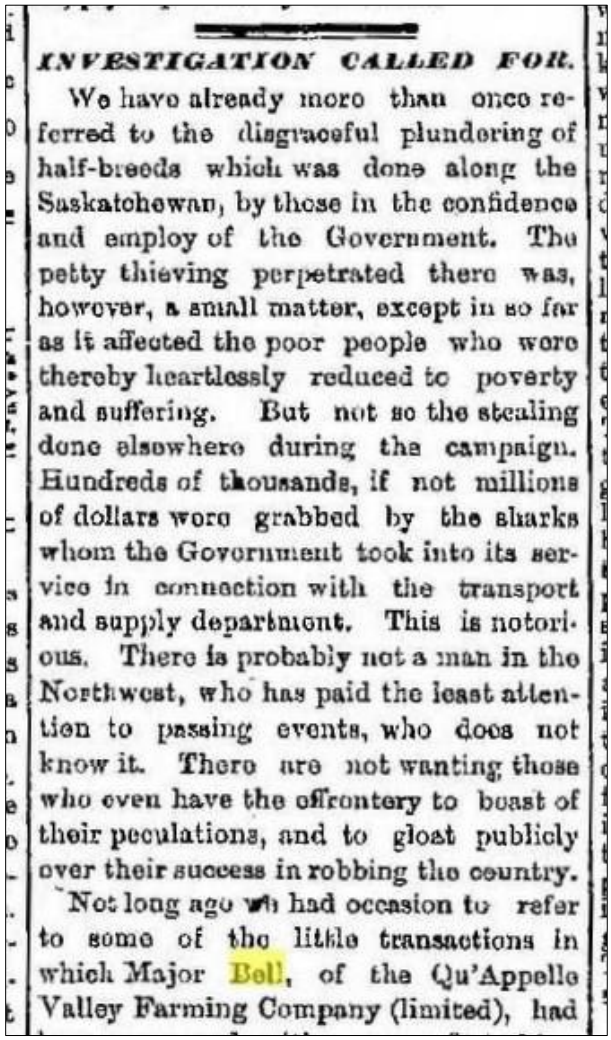
The goods abandoned were taken possession of by "enterprising" friends of the Government and others who were not above gathering up the fragments. The

Part 2 of 6 (rest not relevant to Bell Farm)

1885 – July 29 – *Winnipeg Daily Times,* p. 665 – Major Bell's comment on Rebellion impact on the Farm

"MAJOR BELL says the operation on the Bell farm have not been so extensive this year as in the past in consequence of the rebellion, many of the teams belonging to the farm having been engaged in the transport service. An immense crop, however, will be put in next spring."

1885 – July 31 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Bell accused of over charging Government for Bell Farm supplies

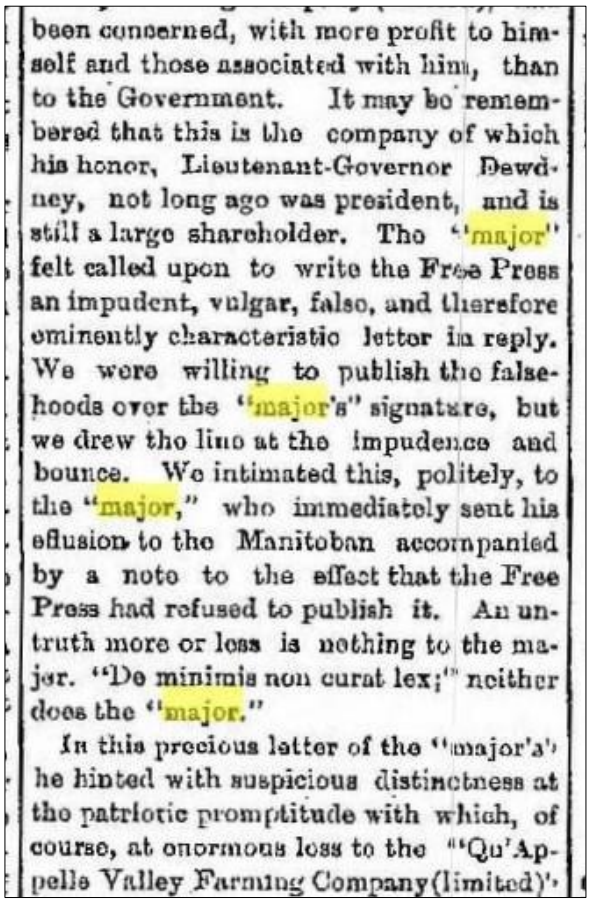


INVESTIGATION CALLED FOR.

We have already more than once referred to the disgraceful plundering of half-breeds which was done along the Saskatchewan, by those in the confidence and employ of the Government. The petty thieving perpetrated there was, however, a small matter, except in so far as it affected the poor people who were thereby heartlessly reduced to poverty and suffering. But not so the stealing done elsewhere during the campaign. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars were grabbed by the sharks whom the Government took into its service in connection with the transport and supply department. This is notorious. There is probably not a man in the Northwest, who has paid the least attention to passing events, who does not know it. There are not wanting those who even have the effrontery to boast of their peculations, and to gloat publicly over their success in robbing the country.

Not long ago we had occasion to refer to some of the little transactions in which Major Bell, of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited), had

Part 1 of 5 129 kb



been concerned, with more profit to himself and those associated with him, than to the Government. It may be remembered that this is the company of which his honor, Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, not long ago was president, and is still a large shareholder. The "major" felt called upon to write the Free Press an impudent, vulgar, false, and therefore eminently characteristic letter in reply. We were willing to publish the falsehoods over the "major's" signature, but we drew the line at the impudence and bounce. We intimated this, politely, to the "major," who immediately sent his effusion to the Manitoban accompanied by a note to the effect that the Free Press had refused to publish it. An untruth more or less is nothing to the major. "De minimis non curat lex;" neither does the "major."

In this precious letter of the "major's" he hinted with suspicious distinctness at the patriotic promptitude with which, of course, at enormous loss to the "Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited)"

Part 2 of 5 123 kb

of which he is manager and Mr. Dewney is a large shareholder, teams were supplied to the Government at $10 a day when they could have been got elsewhere in Manitoba or the Northwest at $6.50 or less. From this we are convinced that our conjecture as to the probability of a claim for consequential damages being preferred by the company was not far astray.

Thousands upon thousands of acres will no doubt lie fallow—that is not the way the manager lies—on the "Bell Farm," popularly so called, this year, because the "major" had to let the Government have his and Mr. Dowdney's teams for $10 a day when it would have cost him as much as $5 a day to replace them for farming purposes. The "major" always speaks in "thousands," being a much more practical person than his well-known brother-in-arms, "Colonel Sellers," who dealt in "millions." Therefore, after having cleared $86 a ton on his contract for

Part 3 of 5 116 kb

forwarding supplies to the front, after having sold rotten hay at a remunerative number of dollars a ton, and scooped in more money by farming Government contracts than he ever dreamed of making by farming the land which the Government helped him and Mr. Dowdney to turn scores of valuable settlers away from, it is not improbable that the "major" will next bob up serenely at Ottawa with a claim for consequential damages on account of his "impressed" teams.

But, after all, the "major" is not much, if any, worse than the rest of the noble army of grabbers whom the Government marshalled on the plains of the Northwest to grapple with —the public treasury. They invested the transport service; they charged the commissariat; they swarmed every where. The possible reason why the grasshoppers have not come this year is because they know that the agents and contractors of the Government have been over the country before them. The worst feature in connection with the ravages committed by these creatures of the Government, was that while they were filling up, the volunteers were too often left empty, in the literal sense of that word. While the "major," et hoc genus omne, were making fortunes out of the trans-

Part 4 of 5 139 kb

port, the troops could not get the delicacies sent them from home, and sometimes not even the necessaries.

We trust that it will not embarrass the Government, or interfere with the Riel trial, or endanger the stability of our institutions in any way if we now ask that an investigation of some of these matters be instituted before any more money is paid out on rebellion accounts. The probability is that the Government is almost as well pleased as are the beneficiaries of its corrupt recklessness that its dear friends have been enabled to make their little "pile." If not, prompt and public enquiries will be made with regard to the management of the supply and transport services in the recent campaign.

Part 5 of 5 116 kb

1885 – July 31 – *Regina Leader*, (reported on Aug. 13, 1885, p. 4) – Major and Mrs. Middleton visit Bell Farm

> "General Middleton and Mrs. Middleton left for the East on Friday in the General's special car. Major Smith and Major Jarvis and Capt. Young, accompanied by a number of prominent citizens, waited on the General to wish him *bon voyage*."

(Frank's Note: as the Middletons left Winnipeg on August 4, the "Friday" referred to above would have been on July 31st. No confirmation yet that they stopped at the Bell Farm. Sources that mention such a visit include:

- *Indian Head: History of Indian Head and District*, p. 6 "After the war was over General Middleton and his staff were entertained at the Bell Farm on their way back east. The party included "Gatling-Gun Howard", who with his new gun had played a major role in the Rebellion."
- *Fifty Mighty Men,* by Grant MacEwen, p. 101: "When the war was over and the troops were returning east, General Middleton and his staff were entertained at the Bell farm where they saw stylish saddle and carriage horses which were the pride of Major and Mrs. Bell, 250 cattle, 900 pigs and more farm equipment than they had seen before – seven steam threshers, 45 binders, 40 seeders, 80 sets of harrows and numerous wagons and things."

1885 – July – Visitors Register

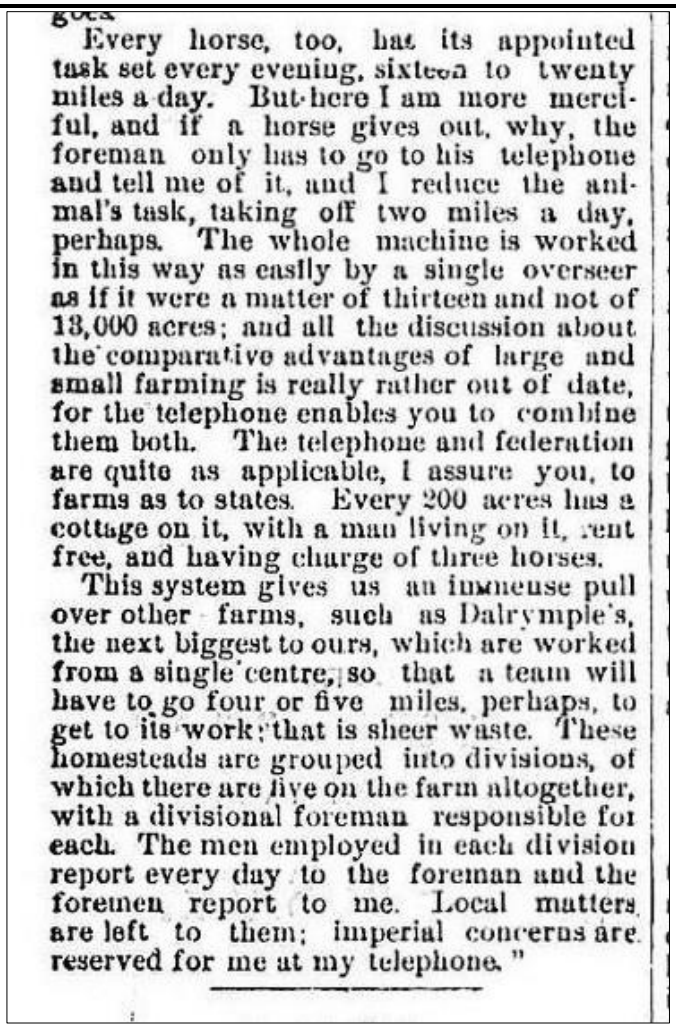
Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
182	July 24, 1885	J. Wrigley	Winnipeg	Manitoba
183		Capt. Samuel Lawrence Bedson	Stony Mountain	Manitoba Captain S. Lawrence Bedson selected the site of the Stoney Mountain prison and ran the institution. He was also a wildlife enthusiast and kept a large herd of buffalo. Part of this herd he later sold to Major Bell who planned on breeding them with cows. Bedson also took part in the North West Rebellion

1885 – Aug. 1 – *Daily British Colonist, Victoria, B.C.*, p. 2 – Report on telephone system on the Bell Farm

The Telephone in Farming.

[Boston Transcript.]

Major Bell of Bell Farm (Qu'Appelle River Farming company, Canada), consisting of 13,000 acres under cultivation, gave a London journalist the following description of the use of the telephone in farming: "One feature that is somewhat novel, perhaps, in our management is the employment of the telephone. At 8 o'clock every evening I press my button, and put myself into communication with my divisional foremen. I give them perhaps ten minutes each, but in each case the others hear what I am saying, though they are four or five miles apart both from me and from one another. Every man must carry out my orders, right or wrong. If he does not, off he goes.



Every horse, too, has its appointed task set every evening, sixteen to twenty miles a day. But here I am more merciful, and if a horse gives out, why, the foreman only has to go to his telephone and tell me of it, and I reduce the animal's task, taking off two miles a day, perhaps. The whole machine is worked in this way as easily by a single overseer as if it were a matter of thirteen and not of 13,000 acres; and all the discussion about the comparative advantages of large and small farming is really rather out of date, for the telephone enables you to combine them both. The telephone and federation are quite as applicable, I assure you, to farms as to states. Every 200 acres has a cottage on it, with a man living on it, rent free, and having charge of three horses.

This system gives us an immense pull over other farms, such as Dalrymple's, the next biggest to ours, which are worked from a single centre, so that a team will have to go four or five miles, perhaps, to get to its work; that is sheer waste. These homesteads are grouped into divisions, of which there are five on the farm altogether, with a divisional foreman responsible for each. The men employed in each division report every day to the foreman and the foremen report to me. Local matters are left to them; imperial concerns are reserved for me at my telephone."

Part 1 of 2: 108 kb

Part 2 of 2: 155 kb

1885 – August 4 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Fist fight at Qu'Appelle between Major Bell and Metcalfe

> "CITY AND PROVINCE – Some little sensation was created at Qu'Appelle station on Friday by the occurrence of a fracas between Mr. Metcalfe, the Government auctioneer, and Major Bell, of the Transport Service. From words they came to blows, and were in a fair way to find out which was the best man when they were separated. It is generally understood that Mr. Metcalfe has serious charges to make against the Major which will no doubt be fully ventilated at the proper place and at the proper time."

1885 – August 13 – *Brandon Sun* – Letter to the Editor on Major Bell's role in the Rebellion

"A BIG STEAL."

How Tory Jobbers Profited by the Rebellion.

QU'APPELLE, July 17.—"These teamsters got pretty well paid for hauling supplies," I remarked to a leading official connected with the administration of justice in the Territories a few days ago.

"Well paid, I should say they did," was the answer. "Why not only had they to get four or five prices for hauling the load, but in a great many cases they got the load too." "Why," continued the official, that Bell farm has been made profitable at last, but I guess if everything were known there would be very few knighthoods granted in connection with this business. Every jobber in the Northwest who had any influence with the Government has made a fortune, and it will not be surprising if they try and provoke another rebellion if they can do as well out of it. Why, there are tons of provisions, oats, hay, clothing, and other supplies purchased for the troops rotting along the transport routes. Between Touchwood and Clark's crossing there are thousands of bushels of oats growing in bags by the side of the trail, and God knows how much the teamsters have hidden and cached for future use. Some of these parties have enough of everything to do them for years. I tell you it was

A BIG STEAL ALL ROUND.

Part 1 of 5: (33 kb)

A BIG STEAL ALL ROUND.

Twice as much was bought as was necessary, because the Bell Farm Company and all the other middlemen were anxious make all the profit they could out of the purchase and hauling of the stuff."

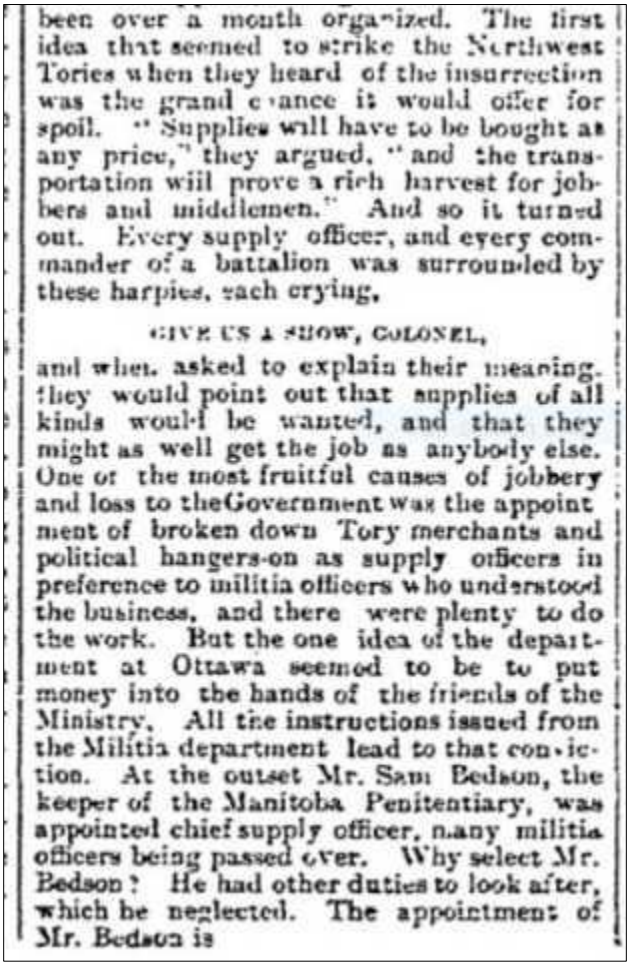
"But was there no check on them?"

"How could there be any check when the man who bought for the Government, and the man from whom the supplies were got was the same person. Why, every man connected with the Bell Farm establishment was engaged as teamster, clerk, superintendent or supply officer, and all the teams belonging to the company were engaged at $10 per day, and the men who drove them were also paid as 'superintendents' to look after themselves. I guess Dewdney has a large interest in that concern," my informant added in response to an enquiry as to how the Bell Farm had fared so well.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

Hearing such statements from an appointee of the present Ottawa government, and one who has always been regarded as a staunch and influential Conservative, I thought the matter should be further investigated, and the revelations were appalling. At first it was a difficult matter to get information. Those who were willing to speak could give very little but general suppositions and conjectures, while those who, one could judge from their conversation, knew the facts, were reticent, most of them being evidently mixed up in some way with the greater or lesser "rings" which the supply and transport called into existence. From volunteers from the front a good many points could be obtained, but the poor fellows had little time to talk, and could only denounce in a general way the inefficiency of the supply service and the scanty equipments doled out to them. There is no longer any doubt that General Middleton's delay in pushing forward towards Batoche after the battle of Fish Creek was owing to the want of supplies, though the services had

Part 2 of 5: (48 kb)



been over a month organized. The first idea that seemed to strike the Northwest Tories when they heard of the insurrection was the grand chance it would offer for spoil. "Supplies will have to be bought at any price," they argued, "and the transportation will prove a rich harvest for jobbers and middlemen." And so it turned out. Every supply officer, and every commander of a battalion was surrounded by these harpies, each crying,

GIVE US A SHOW, COLONEL,

and when asked to explain their meaning, they would point out that supplies of all kinds would be wanted, and that they might as well get the job as anybody else. One of the most fruitful causes of jobbery and loss to the Government was the appointment of broken down Tory merchants and political hangers-on as supply officers in preference to militia officers who understood the business, and there were plenty to do the work. But the one idea of the department at Ottawa seemed to be to put money into the hands of the friends of the Ministry. All the instructions issued from the Militia department lead to that conviction. At the outset Mr. Sam Bedson, the keeper of the Manitoba Penitentiary, was appointed chief supply officer, many militia officers being passed over. Why select Mr. Bedson? He had other duties to look after, which he neglected. The appointment of Mr. Bedson is

UTTERLY INDEFENSIBLE.

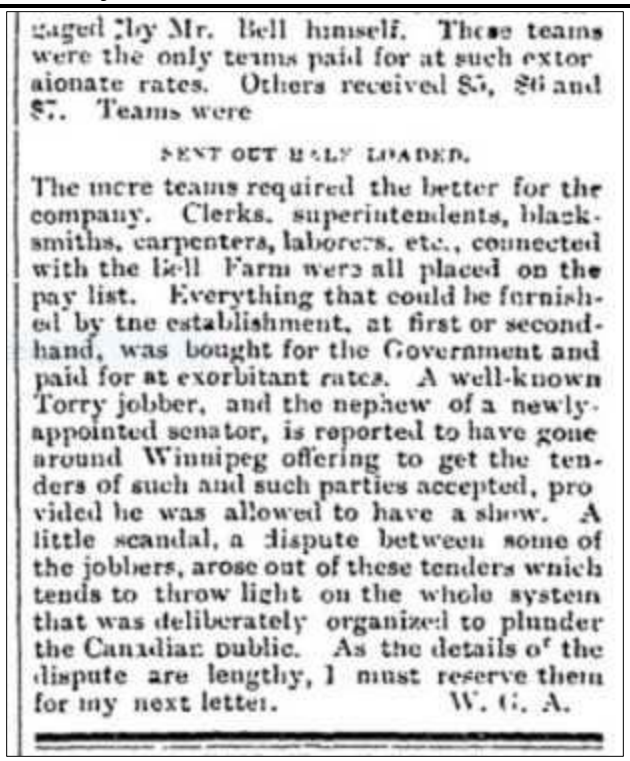
It was "greasing the fat pig," and his reputation as the manager of the Penitentiary was certainly not such as to point him out as the only man in the Northwest competent to fulfil the duties. However, he went off, leaving the Penitentiary to take care of itself, and the result was that several convicts escaped. Whether this news has reached you in the east or not, it is strictly true.

Men who were at the Batoche fight assert that some of these well paid Government employees did not show a very good example to the men on that occasion. It is publicly asserted here that one of the officers of the transport service took possession of Gabriel Dumont's billiard table the most valuable article about the place, and ordered it to be sent back to his place in Manitoba no doubt at Government expense. It is also asserted, and there is circumstantial evidence to support the statement, that the same official ordered a number of the ponies captured from the rebels at Fish Creek to be sent down to his farm at Stoney Mountain, and his orders were carried out. The reports of the alleged looting by the volunteers after Batoche appear to be greatly exaggerated. The men behaved remarkably well, considering the examples set them by Mr. Caron's supply officers.

"Now I have got what I wanted and will make things hum," Major Bell is reported to have said when he received his commission to purchase supplies for the Government. And they hummed. Hay bought from the farmers at $10 and $12 a ton was sold to the Government as "the product of the Bell Farm," at $20 and $25 per ton. Messrs. Bedson and Bell seemed to have understood each other thoroughly, and the latter seems to have been given every possible latitude. He had carte blanche and did pretty much as he pleased. The first move was to put the whole staff of the Bell farm on Government rations and pay. Teams and teamsters from the Bell Farm were en-

Part 3 of 5: (36 kb)

Part 4 of 5: (47 kb)



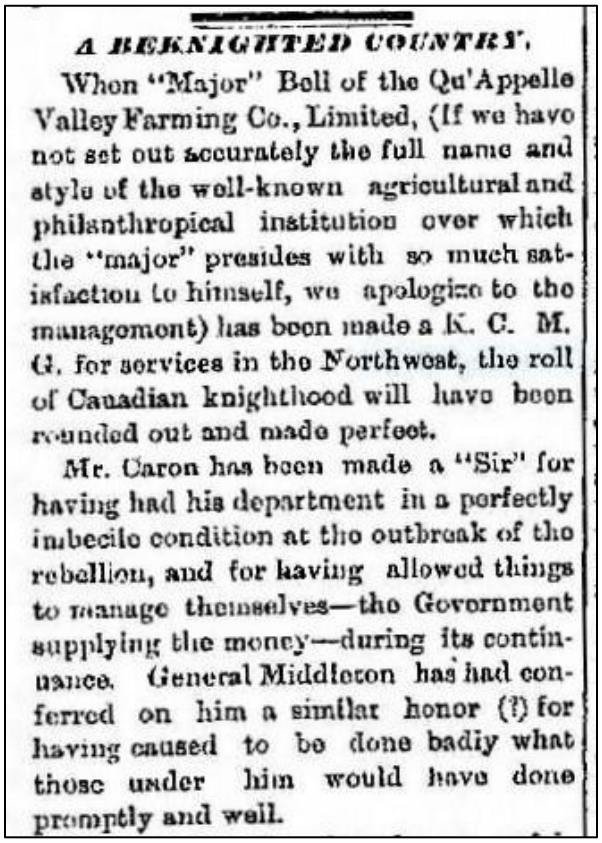
gaged by Mr. Bell himself. These teams were the only teams paid for at such extor aionate rates. Others received $5, $6 and $7. Teams were

SENT OUT HALF LOADED.

The more teams required the better for the company. Clerks, superintendents, blacksmiths, carpenters, laborers, etc., connected with the Bell Farm were all placed on the pay list. Everything that could be furnished by the establishment, at first or second-hand, was bought for the Government and paid for at exorbitant rates. A well-known Torry jobber, and the nephew of a newly-appointed senator, is reported to have gone around Winnipeg offering to get the tenders of such and such parties accepted, provided he was allowed to have a show. A little scandal, a dispute between some of the jobbers, arose out of these tenders which tends to throw light on the whole system that was deliberately organized to plunder the Canadian public. As the details of the dispute are lengthy, I must reserve them for my next letter. W. G. A.

Part 5 of 5: (27 kb)

1885 – Aug. 20 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Satirical comment on a knighthood for Major Bell

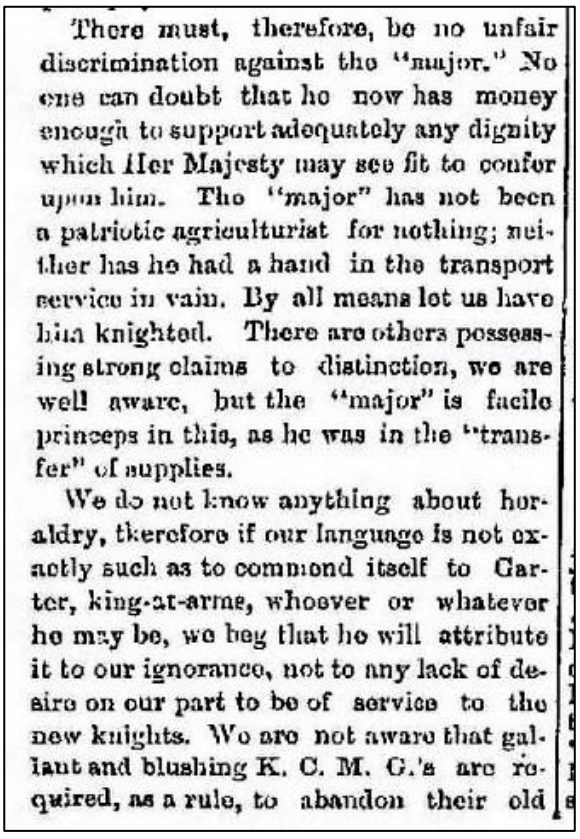


A BENIGHTED COUNTRY.

When "Major" Bell of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., Limited, (If we have not set out accurately the full name and style of the well-known agricultural and philanthropical institution over which the "major" presides with so much satisfaction to himself, we apologize to the management) has been made a K. C. M. G. for services in the Northwest, the roll of Canadian knighthood will have been rounded out and made perfect.

Mr. Caron has been made a "Sir" for having had his department in a perfectly imbecile condition at the outbreak of the rebellion, and for having allowed things to manage themselves—the Government supplying the money—during its continuance. General Middleton has had conferred on him a similar honor (?) for having caused to be done badly what those under him would have done promptly and well.

Part 1 of 4



There must, therefore, be no unfair discrimination against the "major." No one can doubt that he now has money enough to support adequately any dignity which Her Majesty may see fit to confer upon him. The "major" has not been a patriotic agriculturist for nothing; neither has he had a hand in the transport service in vain. By all means let us have him knighted. There are others possessing strong claims to distinction, we are well aware, but the "major" is facile princeps in this, as he was in the "transfer" of supplies.

We do not know anything about heraldry, therefore if our language is not exactly such as to commend itself to Garter, king-at-arms, whoever or whatever he may be, we beg that he will attribute it to our ignorance, not to any lack of desire on our part to be of service to the new knights. We are not aware that gallant and blushing K. C. M. G.'s are required, as a rule, to abandon their old

Part 2 of 4

armorial bearings, if they happen to have property of that kind, and adopt others as fresh as their titles or themselves, but if they are, we would respectfully suggest to Sir Fred, some such crest as a greasy hand, grasping knife, fork and napkin, with the motto: "There they go, like a pack of d—n fools." How would a "hard-tack" do for Sir Caron's crest; motto: "Semper non paratus?" For his "quarterings" (that sounds like a heraldic word) Sir Fred. might utilize a half-breed pony—species, Batoche—a buckboard, furs, and miscellaneous articles—same locality. Sir Caron might find bare-footed volunteers, rotten knapsacks, and superannuated cartridges, useful and appropriate for a like purpose. They will have to arrange with the heralds' college all about the "rampant" and "couchant," "gules," "or," "argent," etc. We can give them no "pointers" in that direction.

Part 3 of 4

For the suggestions which we have thrown out, there are no charges. We make them gratuitously, out of the respect which we bear to Canadian knighthood in general, and from a conviction of the special merits of the latest chosen members of the order. On this happy and and auspicious occasion we have but one regret, and it is that the services of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, have been overlooked. Oh, that the "major," or even Mr. Dewdney, had been remembered!

Part 4 of 4

1885 – Aug. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Major Bell and Transport issues at Qu'Appelle

THE TRANSPORT PATRIOTS.

Referring to the manner in which the people of Canada—not the Government—were robbed by the transport sharks, it might be pertinent to inquire why the salaries of the clerks in Major Bell's department were raised from two dollars and a half per day to four dollars and a half. Some inquisitive people seem to imagine that it was done because the aforesaid clerks know too much about the true inwardness of the gigantic steal going on, and couldn't possibly keep mum without "a consideration," but of course this cannot be the correct explanation because the contractors wouldn't think of such a thing as bleeding the country in such an emergency, and then of course our high-toned Government wouldn't permit it anyway—at all events not without "a consideration." When the above question has been satisfactorily answered, we shall probably have another interrogation or two ready—if not sooner.

105 kb

1885 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
184	August …, 1885	Walter Blackburn	Balgonie	Saskatchewan
185		R. Gordon	Winnipeg	Manitoba
186		Charles Edward Butler	Balgonie	Saskatchewan
187		Henry Tanner	London, England	Same as # 69 & 247 – Tanner was part of Gov. Gen. Lansdowne entourage from Winnipeg west in Sept 1885, but left at Minnedosa, before they reached the Bell Farm.

1885 – August / Sept - Prof. Tanner visited the Bell Farm and reported on progress and employment of Indigenous workers

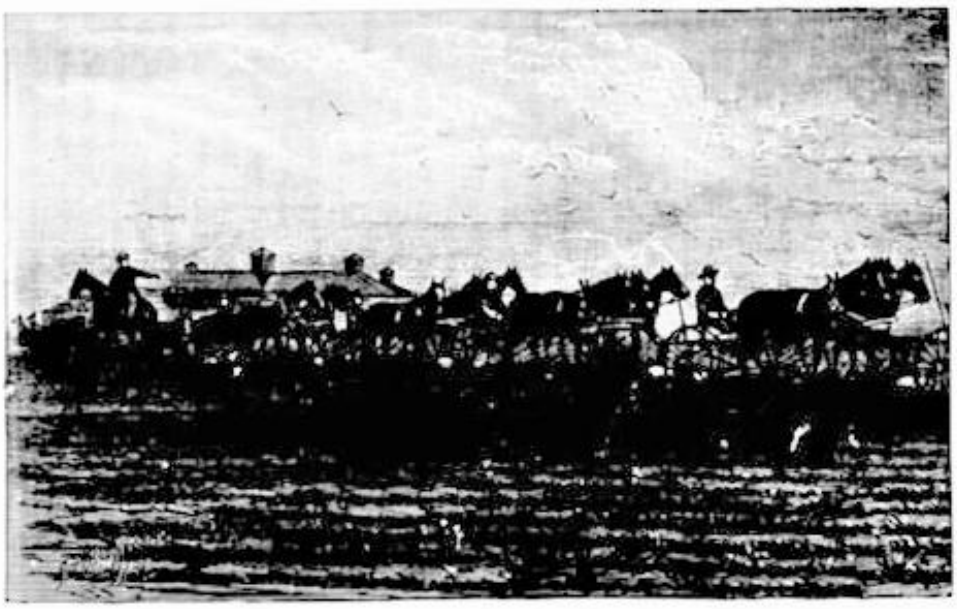
p. 29

On reaching Winnipeg on the evening of September 18th last, somewhat wearied with my lengthened prairie journey, I found an invitation awaiting me to join the members of the Provincial Government, in accompanying the Governor-General (His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne) on his trip along the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. That invitation I accepted with much pleasure, and early the next morning we left Winnipeg in a special train. For a distance of nearly 60 miles we really retraced the course I had travelled the preceding day, and I again passed through those broad plains of rich pasture lands which extend along the side of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but we left this line of railway at Portage la Prairie. At this point His Excellency

p. 38

THE BELL FARM COLONISATION SYSTEM.

The Bell Farm, which is situated in the Qu'appelle district, has attracted much attention by reason of the large extent of land which it contains—about 64,000 acres. It has also received much consideration because of the magnitude and excellence of its tillage operations. It is, however, desirable to state that these points of



PLOUGHING THE PRAIRIE ON THE BELL FARM.

p. 39

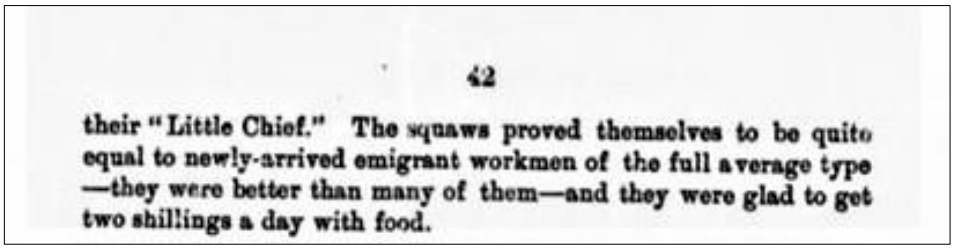
detail are simply incidental to the carrying out of a definite colonisation scheme. In my Report issued in 1883 this system was explained somewhat in detail, and I quote from it the following remarks—"I have now to report upon a colonisation scheme in which the work is being carried out by a company having the command of a large capital. The general scheme is to bring the land into cultivation, dividing it into 300 farms, each having a comfortable residence, with stabling and shedding enough for its stock. When this has been accomplished, these farms, with the stock and implements upon each, will be fairly valued, and the men who helped to carry out the improvements will each have the offer of his own farm at a valuation price, he paying for the same by a series of annual instalments. In the meantime each man receives wages, and he has his house and one acre of garden ground rent free." This colonisation scheme has much to commend it to our consideration, but modifications might be very advantageously introduced whereby gentlemen having some little capital to invest, may also be comfortably settled upon small farms. They might thus establish an agreeable association with other families near, of similar type and character, whilst the produce from their lands—aided by the game and fish of the district around—would practically maintain their households in comfort.

The discussions which have arisen as regards the relative advantages of large and small farms are somewhat beside the mark, except so far as they render the preparation of the land for colonisation purposes more or less economical. Major Bell is steadily advancing the arrangement for the development of the colonisation scheme, and the systematic operations upon the cultivated portions will greatly favour its success. The rate of wages has again fallen this last season, not only upon this farm, but generally throughout Canada, and its important influence upon the introduction of capital, can only be beneficial. If a capitalist has to pay an unreasonable rate of wages, it naturally checks his success in business. For a time very high wages were paid, and often for an inferior class of workmen, but happily this is now altered. Liberal wages can still be secured by men who are capable of doing good work. Their prosperity in life is far more satisfactorily advanced by moderate wages, with some land of their own on which a cow, pigs, and poultry can be kept, rather than by excessive wages, which check the outlay of capital. The employment of Indians in the harvesting of corn is a new and important feature on this farm. A considerable number were so employed this last harvest, and these came under the special guidance of Mr. Adiel W. Sherwood, whom they styled

Indians

p. 41

CUTTING WHEAT ON THE BELL FARM.



42

their "Little Chief." The squaws proved themselves to be quite equal to newly-arrived emigrant workmen of the full average type —they were better than many of them—and they were glad to get two shillings a day with food.

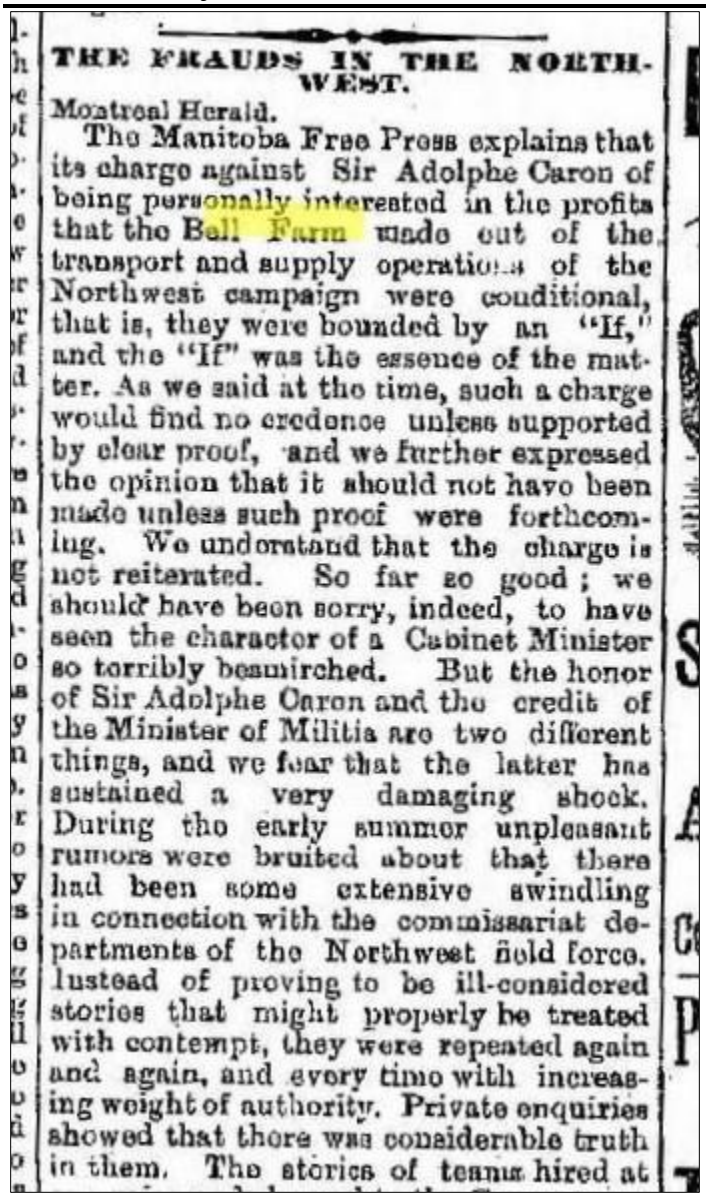
1885 – Sept 3 - Qu'Appelle Vidette, p. __

[Work progressing on new English Church in Fort Qu'Appelle. And, under Indian Head, nominations of candidates for the Qu'Appelle District for Northwest council, followed by a large meeting held at the Bell Farm Hotel.] – check for details

1885 – Sept. 22 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Governor General Lansdowne and CPR's Egan at Bell Farm

"**MANITOBA AND N.W.T – Indian Head – The Governor-General's Tour** – Indian Head, Sept. 21 – The Governor-General and suite and Mr. J.M. Egan, General Superintendent of the C.P. Ry., arrived here by special train this morning. The morning was spent in viewing the Bell farm and looking through the elevator and mill. At one o'clock the party lunched at Major Bell's and then they went out for a hunt, returning to the cars at 6 p.m. To-morrow they will visit Fort Qu'Appelle and return here, and leave for Regina at 5 p.m. with a stop at Qu'Appelle Station, where the citizens will present His Excellency with an address. A detachment of eighty mounted police, under Captain Deane, are camped here and are acting as a body guard to His Excellency. They have been given a special car and will accompany the party through the country."

1885 – Sept. 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Fraud suggested for Bell Farm Rebellion losses claims

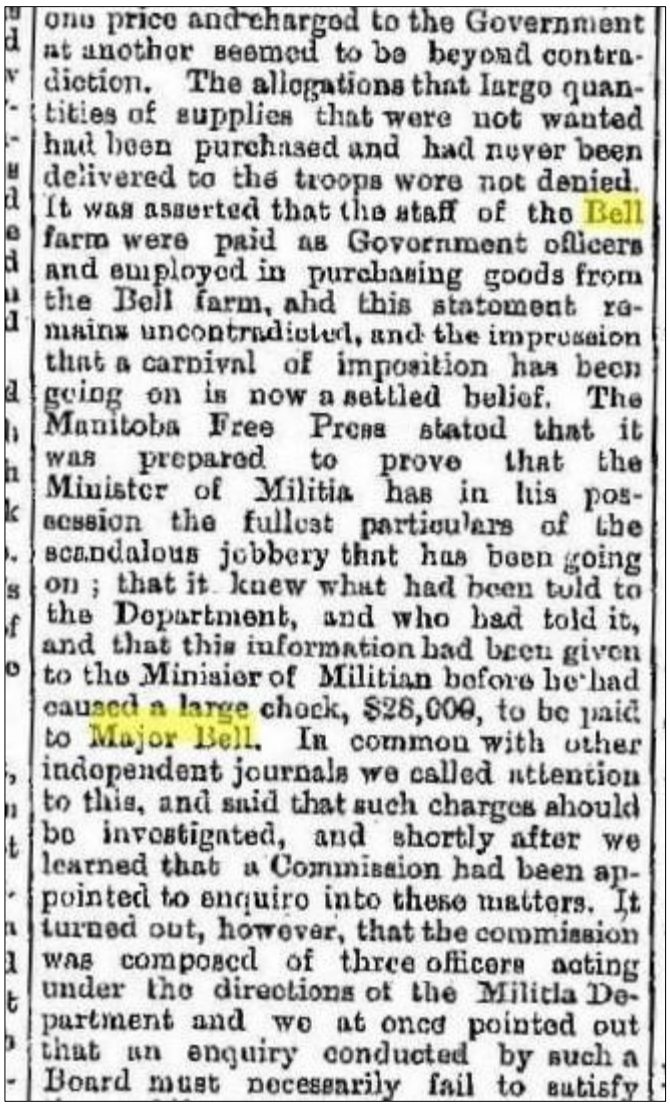


THE FRAUDS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Montreal Herald.

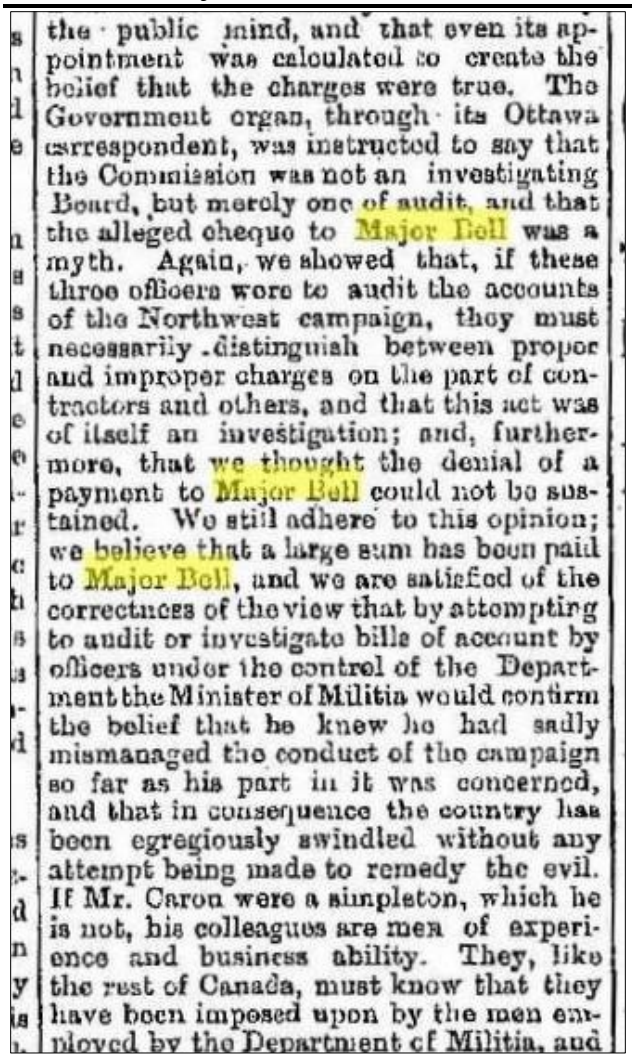
The Manitoba Free Press explains that its charge against Sir Adolphe Caron of being personally interested in the profits that the Bell Farm made out of the transport and supply operations of the Northwest campaign were conditional, that is, they were bounded by an "If," and the "If" was the essence of the matter. As we said at the time, such a charge would find no credence unless supported by clear proof, and we further expressed the opinion that it should not have been made unless such proof were forthcoming. We understand that the charge is not reiterated. So far so good; we should have been sorry, indeed, to have seen the character of a Cabinet Minister so terribly besmirched. But the honor of Sir Adolphe Caron and the credit of the Minister of Militia are two different things, and we fear that the latter has sustained a very damaging shock. During the early summer unpleasant rumors were bruited about that there had been some extensive swindling in connection with the commissariat departments of the Northwest field force. Instead of proving to be ill-considered stories that might properly be treated with contempt, they were repeated again and again, and every time with increasing weight of authority. Private enquiries showed that there was considerable truth in them. The stories of teams hired at

Part 1 of 5 147 kb



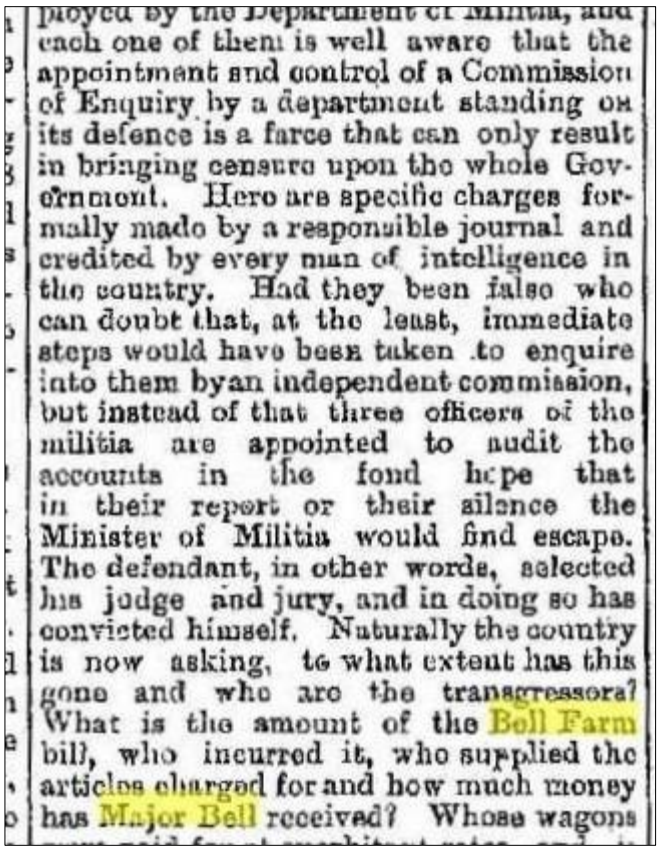
one price and charged to the Government at another seemed to be beyond contradiction. The allegations that large quantities of supplies that were not wanted had been purchased and had never been delivered to the troops were not denied. It was asserted that the staff of the Bell farm were paid as Government officers and employed in purchasing goods from the Bell farm, and this statement remains uncontradicted, and the impression that a carnival of imposition has been going on is now a settled belief. The Manitoba Free Press stated that it was prepared to prove that the Minister of Militia has in his possession the fullest particulars of the scandalous jobbery that has been going on; that it knew what had been told to the Department, and who had told it, and that this information had been given to the Minister of Militian before he had caused a large check, $28,000, to be paid to Major Bell. In common with other independent journals we called attention to this, and said that such charges should be investigated, and shortly after we learned that a Commission had been appointed to enquire into these matters. It turned out, however, that the commission was composed of three officers acting under the directions of the Militia Department and we at once pointed out that an enquiry conducted by such a Board must necessarily fail to satisfy

Part 2 of 5 141 kb



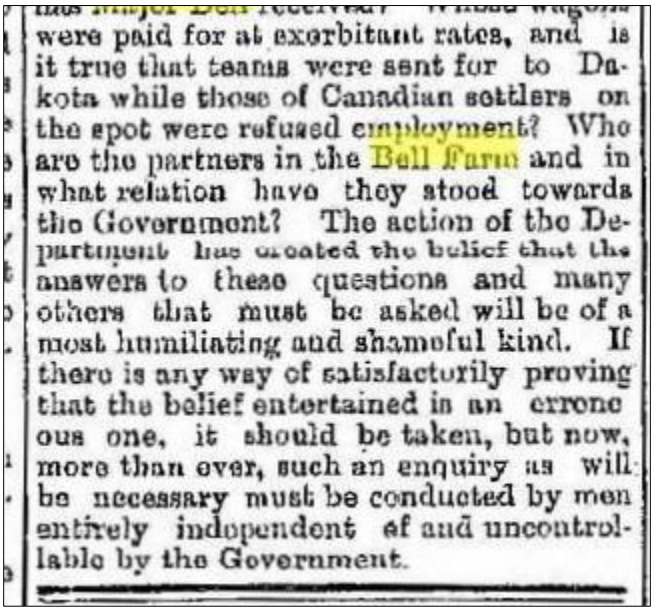
the public mind, and that even its appointment was calculated to create the belief that the charges were true. The Government organ, through its Ottawa correspondent, was instructed to say that the Commission was not an investigating Board, but merely one of audit, and that the alleged cheque to Major Bell was a myth. Again, we showed that, if these three officers were to audit the accounts of the Northwest campaign, they must necessarily distinguish between proper and improper charges on the part of contractors and others, and that this act was of itself an investigation; and, furthermore, that we thought the denial of a payment to Major Bell could not be sustained. We still adhere to this opinion; we believe that a large sum has been paid to Major Bell, and we are satisfied of the correctness of the view that by attempting to audit or investigate bills of account by officers under the control of the Department the Minister of Militia would confirm the belief that he knew he had sadly mismanaged the conduct of the campaign so far as his part in it was concerned, and that in consequence the country has been egregiously swindled without any attempt being made to remedy the evil. If Mr. Caron were a simpleton, which he is not, his colleagues are men of experience and business ability. They, like the rest of Canada, must know that they have been imposed upon by the men employed by the Department of Militia, and

Part 3 of 5 145 kb



employed by the Department of Militia, and each one of them is well aware that the appointment and control of a Commission of Enquiry by a department standing on its defence is a farce that can only result in bringing censure upon the whole Government. Here are specific charges formally made by a responsible journal and credited by every man of intelligence in the country. Had they been false who can doubt that, at the least, immediate steps would have been taken to enquire into them byan independent commission, but instead of that three officers of the militia are appointed to audit the accounts in the fond hope that in their report or their silence the Minister of Militia would find escape. The defendant, in other words, selected his judge and jury, and in doing so has convicted himself. Naturally the country is now asking, to what extent has this gone and who are the transgressors? What is the amount of the Bell Farm bill, who incurred it, who supplied the articles charged for and how much money has Major Bell received? Whose wagons

Part 4 of 5 122 kb



were paid for at exorbitant rates, and is it true that teams were sent for to Dakota while those of Canadian settlers on the spot were refused employment? Who are the partners in the Bell Farm and in what relation have they stood towards the Government? The action of the Department has created the belief that the answers to these questions and many others that must be asked will be of a most humiliating and shameful kind. If there is any way of satisfactorily proving that the belief entertained is an erroneous one, it should be taken, but now, more than ever, such an enquiry as will be necessary must be conducted by men entirely independent of and uncontrollable by the Government.

Part 5 of 5 99 kb

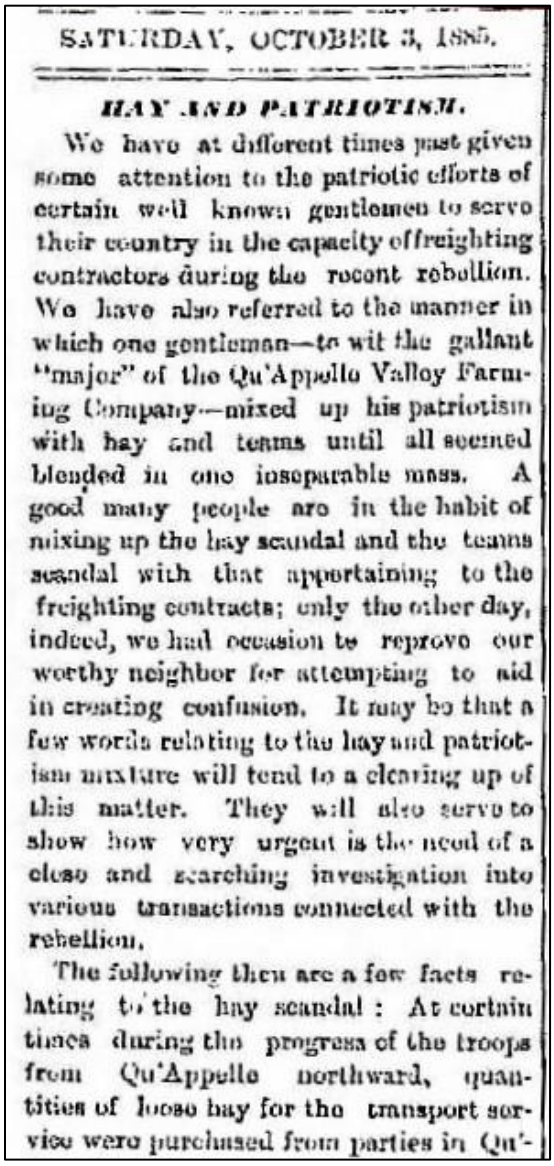
Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
188	Sept. 21, 1885	Lansdowne	Ottawa	Ontario – Governor General of Canada: 1883-88
189		Edward Hope	London, England	
190		Alan Charteris	London, England	
191		H.J. Anson	Ottawa	Ontario Captain Henry James Anson (1858-1904) was the Aide-de-Camp to the Marquis of Lansdowne and the nephew of Bishop Anson. He visited the Bell Farm with the Governor General on September 21, 1885.
192		W. Burton Deane	Regina	Saskatchewan – NWMP superintendent
193	Sept. 22, 1885	Marie de Molinari	Paris	France
194		G. de Molinari	Paris	France
195		Georges Demanche	Paris	France
196		Georges *Tiret-Bognet*	Paris	France
197		*T.* Campbell Train	Edinburgh	Scotland
198		W.S. Jones	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan

1885 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
626	D 08	DC 2/85	S.M. Jarvis Vs. M. Kennedy	1883-1885	Salter Jarvis one of the QVFC directors
677	L 08	DC 61/85	A.J. Osment Vs. D. Beadle	1885	
730	F 09	DC 119/85	A.J. Osment Vs. L. Clark	1885	
754	J 09	DC 143/85	A.J. Osment Vs. G. Thompson	1885	

755	J 09	DC 144/85	A.J. Osment Vs. G. Adams & QVFC	1885	
782	O 09	DC 177/85	T.C. Gorrell Vs. W. Bell & F. Goodwin	1883-1886	Not sure if W. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else
827	G 10	DC 223/85	A. Pugsley Vs. A.J. Osment	1885-1886	
845	J 10	DC 244/85	J.B. Milliken Vs. W.R. Bell	1885	

1885 – Oct. 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Rebellion supplies costs and Bell Farm involvement



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1885.

HAY AND PATRIOTISM.

We have at different times past given some attention to the patriotic efforts of certain well known gentlemen to serve their country in the capacity of freighting contractors during the recent rebellion. We have also referred to the manner in which one gentleman—to wit the gallant "major" of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company—mixed up his patriotism with hay and teams until all seemed blended in one inseparable mass. A good many people are in the habit of mixing up the hay scandal and the teams scandal with that appertaining to the freighting contracts; only the other day, indeed, we had occasion to reprove our worthy neighbor for attempting to aid in creating confusion. It may be that a few words relating to the hay and patriotism mixture will tend to a clearing up of this matter. They will also serve to show how very urgent is the need of a close and searching investigation into various transactions connected with the rebellion.

The following then are a few facts relating to the hay scandal: At certain times during the progress of the troops from Qu'Appelle northward, quantities of loose hay for the transport service were purchased from parties in Qu'Appelle district, the price paid being, we believe, $12 per ton. The purchasers were chiefly military employes of the Government, working under the direction of the manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farm, whose patriotism had led him to accept charge of the nearer end of the transport line. Singularly enough, though the hay was purchased for $12 per ton, the Government was billed by the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company for the same hay at $20 per ton. A short mental calculation will show that $8 per ton went into the coffers of the Farming Company, of which the gentlemen in charge of the Qu'Appelle end of the transport line was manager.

It seems that a quantity of baled hay was furnished to the Government on the same advantageous terms, the actual cost to the Government being some $8 per ton more than the price paid to the original owners.

We do not know that the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company have been paid for the hay yet; in fact, we incline to think they have not, and that certain denials about no money having been paid on contract account are based on this fact. These denials may be repeated, but under the circumstances, they must have very little weight.

Part 1 of 2 Part 2 of 2

1885 – Oct. 8 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

[Indian Head. Prize list for Indian Head Ag Exhibition. First prize for best roadster stallion to be offered by Major Bell.] – check for details

1885 – Oct. 11 – 13 – extracts from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary (transcripts by Hugh Henry)

Note from Hugh Henry: Not clear whether references below are Major Bell, or not. [Note from Frank Korvemaker: These Lister-Kaye meetings are in Winnipeg; I'm certain that the "Bell" references are to Major Bell, and that the "Club" is the Manitoba Club.]

Sunday, October 11

At 2:15 a.m. Walter meets me. I am delighted with the house and barn, roost at 4, breakfast at 8:00. Out with Walter walk over ploughing and backsetting, both are admirable. I am delighted, a splendid seed bed. Tell W. B. to start in at $70 per month now. Pelly & Redpath to dinner. Horses looking well. Leave $2,000 with Walter. Northwood a capitalist of Chatham, Ontario is on train coming to Winnipeg he tells me of his flour mill at Carberry capacity 400 barrels per day profit $200 per day, 75 horsepower engine with two boilers will drive mills, also the elevator. Cost of mill & engines & machinery $2,800. Bell measured 1,000 acres & got 35,000 bushels thrashed, a grand average this last year. Leave Balgonie -

Monday, October 12

- 12.5. a.m., I get up at 11 next morning in time for dinner at Brandon at Grand View Hotel, very good. Here it is 12:00 going on central time. I make acquaintance of Mr. Sykes owner of 14,000 acres above Qu'Appelle. He has farms in Dakota & Iowa under tenant system, his tenants doing well. Meet Bell at Queen's Hotel, puts me up for the Club.

Tuesday, October 13

See McTavish settles I can pay interest in advance on the 8 sections $899.77. See Brydges H.B. Co. agent, he says ditto so I decide to pay interest on the ¾ section 26, T17, R17 amounting to $201. Luncheon with Bell at Club, meet McTavish & McDonald brother of Sir J. After luncheon McTavish drives me out to Silver Heights, his and Donald Smith's model farm. He has fine Highland & Hereford cattle, farm well drained. Wonderful show of potatoes, carrots & parsnips.

1885 – Oct. 15 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

[Indian Head. Qu'Appelle Valley Flour Mill sold. – Frank: This does not appear to be the Bell Farm Flour Mill, but instead is a mill in Qu'Appelle or Fort Qu'Appelle, probably the latter.] – check for details

1885 – Oct. 14 – Rebellion Claims Commission – Testimony of Major Bell – APPENDIX No. 4 . PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON WAR CLAIMS. OTTAWA, 25th February, 1886 - details of Major Bell's involvement with Bell, Lewis & Co, and others

This Commission was appointed by the federal government on Aug. 21, 1885 to investigate the over 1300 claims made by people and agencies who felt they were entitled to compensation for their losses during the North-West Rebellion of 1885, which started March 26, and ended on July 2, 1885. Both Major Bell and the Bell Farm were actively involved in this conflict: Major Bell as a Transport Officer appointed to serve at Qu'Appelle, and the Bell Farm as an agency providing transport teams and supplies (mainly hay and teams of men and wagons) to the government forces. During that time, and afterwards, there was considerable newspaper coverage that charged Major Bell with a conflict of interest, as he briefly served as both a government-paid Transport Officer, and sold supplies and services from the Bell Farm and/or himself to the government. In addition he was reportedly involved with the Bell, Lewis & Company and/or the Bell, Lewis, Yates and Walsh Company. There was considerable confusion over who the "Bell" in the latter two companies actually was: Major W.R. Bell, of Indian Head, or A.F. Bell of Buffalo, New York. The Commission dealt with this matter extensively, and the testimonies from various witnesses and Major Bell never fully clarified the Major's role. The published account is extensive, over 200 pages; while the direct testimony of Major Bell covers about 12 pages. Only those dozen pages are reproduced below. Major Bell testified in at least two sessions: October 14 and Nov. 17 & 18, 1885.

There are numerous other newspaper accounts and government documents relating to the Rebellion, Major Bell and the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, including, but not limited to, the following:

- http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/1383/2.html – Major Bell and the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company – p. 16 17 18 38 68 & 71 (War. Claims No. 6, 7, 283, 702, 750, and 818)
- http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/1396.html - p. 116 183 184 185 187 188 189 191 192 194 195 196 197 199 200 201 204 205 206 209 210 211 212 213 217 218 219 233 234 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 251 252 253 254 255 256 258 259 260 261 262 263 267 268 269 273 274 293 366 373
- http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/1470.html - p. 19 28
- http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/1479.html -p. 3 4 7 11 15 16 34

However, the document below is the only one found to date that provides a *ver batim* transcript of Major Bell's testimony. Those other documents also need to be reviewed to determine what further light they can throw on this matter.

Due to the 1880s grammar, subject matter (military, transportation and farming business), and various transcription errors, the text is sometimes difficult to follow and comprehend.

> **Session # 1 – October 14, 1885** – starts at the bottom of p. 220; **Session # 2 – November 17 & 18, 1885 –** the day after the execution of Louis Riel in Regina – starts in the middle of p. 225

October 14, 1885.

Major W. R. BELL, called.

Col. Jackson :—

The matter of transport is up again, and we desire to know what you know about it?

A. Do I understand that charges are made against me here?

Q. No charges against you. It has been reported that there are certain irregularities between some officers of the Department and Contractors, and we wish to know about it?

A. My name has been brought up very frequently, has it not?

Q. There are no charges against you, any more than you have seen in the papers?

A. I don't notice that at all; if there are charges I have a right to know what they are.

Q. Can you tell us anything about the contract at Swift Current, the moving of freight there?

A. Yes, I can tell you all about it?

Q. It would be better for you to give it without questions, I suppose, if you could do so?

A. If I knew exactly what you wanted I would give it, but I understand from parties around the hotel, this morning, that they were making charges against me, and I think that it is nothing but fair that I should know what the charges are, and what I would have to explain; it appears that they are boasting that they are against me.

Col. Jackson:—No charges against you that I am aware of.

Witness:—Of course it is a very serious thing with me, and I am willing to give facts about everything I know.

Q. Do you know about the contract of Stewart, Ross & Riddell?

A. Yes; the first I knew about a contract being taken was at Troy. Stewart came and told me he had made a contract with General Laurie, for the transport of all freight from Clarke's Crossing and the Elbow, and at the same time told me he had no money, and asked me if I would advance him the money; I asked him his figures and he told me $110 a ton for it, and he said he had sublet a contract to Ross & Riddell at $105; I said I could not take any interest in it, but I would advance him the money; if he would confine himself to Moosejaw, I would have something to do with him, for I knew that Qu'Appelle had been given up; he went away to Moosejaw, or came to Winnipeg, and I heard nothing more about him for a week; in the meantime Col. Whitehead wired me to make contracts for freight.

Col. Whitehead here read telegram:—Having received instructions from the Minister of Militia to cancel all contracts for transport, I authorise you to dismiss all teams and re-engage them without middle system, etc.

Col. Whitehead:—And at that time I never saw the Major, and never knew him. You can confirm that?

A. Yes. As you are aware, there was some doubt about the power of the different officers, and I was careful about acting; I did not know anything about General Laurie, and all I knew was, Bedson was my superior officer, and I was receiving different telegrams, and very doubtful whether General Laurie had any power to make any contracts; I was told that he had not, and when I found that I immediately withdrew from the whole thing; but in the meantime, I had made this contract by Col. Whitehead's orders, with Bell, Lewis & Co. Lewis when I went to him, knowing him to be a strong man in this country, and I had no time to advertise, and it was a mere temporary thing to be cancelled in 24 hours, and I thought it might last only a few days, and I went to Lewis and I told him if he could get some teams, he could make some money out of it, and I was going away the next morning, and I spoke to him about the contract, and he said he knew nothing about it, but if I would go into it, take no interest but to oversee the men and push matters, he would give me half interest in the contract, and I acceded to that, but when I went home and found out that I had committed myself—Bedson told me that the General's orders were that I must give up my position as Transport Officer or the contract, and I immediately gave it up, and watched my business as Transport Officer; in the meantime, the firm was Bell, Lewis, Yates & Co., or something that way. In the meantime, when I met Stewart I tried to compromise the thing, so that the thing could be carried on down here, and I offered to give him half my interest for half of his interest in the other contract here, and he shipped a great deal after I saw him. I went and saw Lewis and told him I would have nothing to do with it, and saw Laurie, who heard the contract was being carried on in Bell, Lewis, Yates & Co., and I told him I had nothing to do with it; there was a great deal of freight left there, and it had to be moved at once; there were some 500 or 600 tons there; I went to Moosejaw, and saw Laurie, and told him Stewart was out of it, and told him Lewis did not want the contract at Moosejaw, and said, I will make a contract very much below Stewart's prices; and knowing at this time there was a doubt about the contract Laurie had made, I did not think it would be recognized here, and I told him I could make a contract for $80 or $85 with Ross & Riddell, with better men than Stewart, as I knew he had not a single dollar when he started the work, that we could not give the contract to him at Swift Current as he was losing at Moosejaw, and he agreed to that, and I made a contract with him, sav-

ing in all about $20,000 on that contract. But, in the meantime, the Northcote had gone down the river, and that stuff had to be pushed up; I went down to Troy, and General Laurie and I got a contract up, that Ross was to take that; but when I got back, Laurie wired me, in the face of his agreement to accept Ross & Riddell's tender, which he dictated the greater part to me, that he was going to make Stewart stick to his contract. Every contract that I made was to end in 24 hours' notice. When I found that out, he wrote to me that Stewart was going ahead with that contract, and he strongly advised me to give him the Swift Current contract, and said he had offered to do it for $130, the Government supplying everything, and knew he could not carry it out, and that there would be trouble, and I was bound I would not give it to him; and I sent up a clerk that we had there, Jones, and told him that if we could not get contractors, we could run the thing ourselves cheaper to the Government.

Col. Whitehead:—General Laurie wires you have not answered his telegram about contract with Stewart, about freight between Saskatchewan Landing and Battleford. Please arrange for the present until tenders are allotted.

Q. What did Jones do?

A. When he went up, he started by the hundred, at three fifty a hundred; there was no contract, *and he was to hire the teams on the best terms that he could hire them.* He went up and in three or four days, he made a contract with Thomas Howard, and I immediately wrote him to come back, that Howard had the contract. I have never acted in any of these matters without orders from Col. Whitehead or Bedson, and there's a telegram that I received to bind contractors to carry it out until somebody got at it, and I objected to Stewart doing it, and I thought I was doing my duty when I was trying to save $25,000 to the Government in the Moosejaw contract, and General Laurie would not allow it. The contract with Stewart could be cancelled in ten days, and at the same time Stewart agreed with me that he would throw up that contract, and he was to receive no consideration, except that he was to get the Swift Current contract, which I thought was much fairer at $150 than the other at $110, especially as I could let the Moosejaw contract at $80, if I remember right. I will find out and let you know. But I know there was a large amount of money saved there, and I pointed it out to General Laurie, and he quite agreed with me, and the moment I got home I found the whole thing was broken; I think it turned upon a matter of authority, and he thought he was doing the right thing, and I immediately telegraphed to you, and I also told General Middleton, and I tell you now, as I will tell you under oath, that I had no interest in the contract. I lent Stewart money, and I had to lend him money to buy a suit of clothes, and money to pay his board, and to get him out of town, and he has not returned it yet. I thought at first that he was a man of money, and at the first I thought it was a straight bargain that I was to have a half interest if I advanced the money, but I found out that he was such a scoundrel, and I withdrew, and I did not think there was anything dishonest about it, and I claim so to-day, as I thought I was cutting the whole thing down to half the price.

Q. When you and Stewart were talking about this contract, there was some proposition that there were to be some shares?

A. No, the understanding was that he was to have a quarter interest in my contract.

Q. It was stated there were to be five shares, and yourself, Stewart and two others were named, the fifth was not named, and we want to know whether that fifth was to be retained for any other individual?

A. I know what you mean, but I would rather answer the direct question, but Col. Whitehead had no interest; I never saw him to that moment in my life; the arrangement was that I had a half interest with Lewis, and I wanted to barter my half interest with a half interest with Stewart. There is the agreement, which I want to keep, which is to show that I was to have half interest with Stewart, and I was to divide my half interest with Stewart in the Bell Lewis contract, but as far as Col. Whitehead goes, I regret very much that the thing has ever come up, but John Stewart or any other person has no reason to state that I ever stated that Col. Whitehead had any interest in that contract. He has done so to blackmail me, and I don't know why, unless it is because I advanced him money to start in. I lifted him out of the ditch. In starting the thing I told him that Lewis was a man from Montreal, and he would be able to finance better than we could,

knowing Col. Whitehead, and help us to get our settlements better than either he or I could, but, on my word as a man, that is the only thing I ever told him, and I don't know how in the world he could have taken anything other than what I meant by that.

Col. Whitehead here read telegrams of 21st of May from his book.

Witness:—I think the contracts I have made should be brought up as I made them, all subject to your order to be cancelled in twenty-four hours, and I thought I had secured myself and the Government when I made the contract with Bell, Lewis and Yates; I could not find anybody to take it.

Q. Could you not have got the middlemen?

A. I had no authority in the first place to do it, and I could not do it; I understood at that time that there were to be no middlemen, as the cry was at that time about the contractors in the middle taking the contracts and making so much out of them; we could not depend upon teamsters; we could not trust any teamsters on the road. I think it was just before the 21st of May, that I refused to obey your (Col. Whitehead's) orders at all; I thought you would understand that I could not obey your orders, and take one order from you, and another from somebody else to the contrary; I think the first time I ever met Col. Whitehead was on the night of the 21st; I saw him in the club for a few moments; I was introduced by somebody, and I came down to see him what this meant.

Q. Was there any arrangement between you and Col. Whitehead?

A. Not the slightest, except to facilitate the thing; we went and saw Mr. Wrigley; I knew there was money being wasted, and Col. Whitehead and I went to see him; I think on the morning of the 23rd.

Q. Did you understand that it was to be carried out—the contract was to be carried out—by weight, providing the Bell Farm teams were kept on at $10 a day?

A. Not at all; the first teams that came in afterwards were dismissed immediately and reduced to $4.50 a day. Nearly all the teams were dismissed in May, but there were some of our teamsters with the General to the very last, and these are our accounts in to-day for $5 a day.

Col. Jackson:—I wish to have it cleared up, as it is suggested.

A. Not at all, as far as I am concerned I am sorry that my name should have been mixed up in saying that Col. Whitehead was in any way interested in the contract, and it has not emanated from me; I believe there was a question about our hay.

Col. Forrest:—You say distinctly for June and July they were charged at $5?

A. No, I don't say that, but I say our teams that were with General Middleton were charged at $10 a day until they came back; I could not dismiss them when they were at Prince Albert: I dismissed the teams as fast as they came in and they were sent home. It was impossible for me to hire teams and not middlemen; the teamsters were not responsible men, and I had to make my contracts with others; the first intimation I got about the teams being dismissed was the telegram that I got from Col. Whitehead. General Laurie dismissed them at Swift Current, and in consequence of that I telegraphed my resignation to General Middleton.

Q. It is said that the Bell Farming Co., of which you are manager, had the contract to deliver hay?

A. We had, with the Hudson Bay, nearly nine hundred tons altogether; the price was 20 dollars loose hay and 22 dollars wired.

Q. How much did you deliver?

A. We delivered between eight hundred and nine hundred tons, I don't know exactly.

Q. Do you know the date of your last delivery?

A. I think the last lot was in May or the fore part of June; It was a very small lot, just delivered around Troy to keep the teams coming back.

Q. It is reported there was a large lot of hay along the line in excess of what was required; I suppose you received that in telegrams from Captain Hudson?

A. No, I did not; the cry all the time was that they were short of forage. I never received a telegram from Hudson in my life.

Q. It has been reported that a great deal of that hay was in bad condition when shipped?

A. Yes, there was a great deal of it.

Q. How did it come to be so bad?

A. They say it was all right when it was shipped from here, and I went to Captain Swinford, and told him that I was not going to ship any more like that. Ours was shipped from Qu'Appelle, and I can get you a certificate from Archie McDonald to shew that our hay was the best that was shipped.

Q. Wasn't he a contractor?

A. He was a contractor, I suppose, as a Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Co. He made nothing because he was not interested in it, as far as I know. The contract was made before I had anything to do with the transport; my accounts have all gone into the office here to be settled; I cannot say that he was making any profit on it, but I know that we got just what we agreed to get, and he has never got a dollar from me, and never will get a cent from me; my accounts have gone into the Hudson Bay Co. and this contract was made before I went into the transport service. We had a large quantity of hay there to sell, and of course we were willing to sell it, and I can prove that it was the best hay that was sold to the Government through the whole engagement, and that the teams that I engaged were the best. It cost us $7 to have it pressed, double-wired.

Q. There seemed to be great desire at Qu'Appelle to forward this hay to the front —why was that?

A. That has nothing to do with me; I never shipped a bit of hay; our hay went up the first part of the season; it came from Winnipeg.

Q. You sent up a lot of hay that was damaged?

A. Not from our farm; it was spoilt in transit; it was all burning when it got to Troy; it was bound up wet, and I went to Captain Swinford, and called a commission, and said I would not ship any more like that, and General Laurie had it examined, and he found that the only good hay that was delivered was our hay, not because I was any more honest than any of the rest, but because it did not have to come so far; we broke open some of the cars of hay, and found it was wet-packed, and almost on fire.

Col. Jackson:—Who ordered the opening of the cars, when it was found that that hay was so bad?

A. Our clerks did the most of it; we shipped whatever Captain Swinford wanted shipped. Captain Swinford would tell the clerks what to ship, and they would ship it. When I got there was the first day that they employed oxen, and instead of taking 600, we took the full ton, and I placed these oxen between different stations to take the full ton and McKnight telegraphed me that the first lot that got there was no good, and it was then that I referred the matter to Captain Swinford, and that was the first I knew of any bad hay being sent; baled hay looks perfectly right and straight on the outside, but you break it open, and you will find it is perfectly rotten inside; I have given you exactly the facts, just as I have reported them to General Middleton, and I think, comparing my statement of to-day with that which I gave General Middleton, you will find that I have given you the fair straight story, and it will compare very fairly. I have worked as faithfully as any man could, and I studied that Transport Service the same as if I was paying the bills myself, and I would not allow the teamsters to go on without their horses being shod, and not charged to the Government; I insisted on them paying for it themselves; I worked as faithfully and economically as possible for the Government, and I would not offer a teamster a dollar a day less than I offered those men, and I don't think the prices paid were high, for you must remember the expense of transit from the time they leave here until they get there takes a great deal of their profit.

Q. Don't you think the high prices paid them influenced the prices of other teams all throughout the country?

A. Not at all. You cannot hire a team in our country for less then $6 a day; you must remember when they were hired the seeding season was just open, and it is a loss that we lose the whole year, and I would not take $50 a day for our teams at that season of the year, and I would not let our teams go next year at the same rate, for the valuable part of our year is the middle of May, and I told Mr. Wrigley that I would not let them go for that figure, and when he asked me to state my figure I told him I was going to charge $14 a day; we were paying our men $75 a month and our foremen $10 extra; we did not make such a sum out of it after all.

Col. Forrest:—They state in that little contract at Qu'Appelle, there was a little ring that was interested, one in passing it, and one buying it, and it was very bad hay?

A. I defy any man to prove it; I sent a man through the country buying hay, and he paid as high as $14, and I cleared $400 on the eighty tons that I sold, and I will give you my word of honor as a man that there was no man made anything out of any contract that I had anything to do with, except the contract of our Company; that hay was shipped from the 18th of May to the last of May, and it was nearly all shipped except these last few tons; it was fresh baled, and within a day after it was baled, it was shipped on.

Q. It was said that the large stock that remained was very bad?

A. No, it was not. I went there to bid on my own hay, and I would have given $10 a ton for it, because I could have sold it to the Police, and a friend of mine came up and said: I think you had better not buy it, and I withdrew; and I could have cleared more out of that hundred tons than I did on the whole contract, for it was good hay, and was sold for $2.50 a ton; not one of our bales was ever opened at the Fort, and not one of our bales found rotten; there were six hundred bales came up one day that was all destroyed; I inspected it when it came there, and I refused to carry it any further, but it was paid for then, being sent from here.

Col. Jackson:—What quality of hay did you have cut on your farm in the spring?

A. We had about 500 or 600 tons; we never mowed a ton; everything was stacked there from the year before; the whole country was burned over in the spring, and we never mowed a single ton.

Q. You had some places on your Farm where the hay was standing up through the ice, and you ran your mower over it, and stacked it up and sold it?

A. No, we did not, not a single ton.

Q. Of course that hay would be very apt to get rotten?

A. Of course it would; as a rule I think we got the usual run of hay; there was some very poor, and some very good; we must admit it that there was a lot of waste hay there, and everything else; I had two clerks to look after it night and day, and I did my best, and I thought I was going to get a little credit for it, rather than be blackguarded as I have been; but things go contrary sometimes; I have given you the straight facts, and I am willing to swear to them if they are correctly reported.

WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION.

W. R. Bell, sworn. November 17th, 1885.

Col. Jackson:—

Q. What relations do you bear towards the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company?

A. I am Manager of that Company.

Q. What position did you occupy during the Rebellion in connection with the North West Field Force?

A. I was under Brigade Field Orders, as Transport Officer at the Base.

Mr. Anderson:—

Q. Are you a stockholder as well as manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company?

A. I am.

Q. You were Transport Officer at Qu'Appelle during the late Rebellion?

A. Yes.

Q. What were your duties?

A. To forward all supplies I received from the Supply Officer.

Q. As cheaply as possible?

A. No, not exactly, but to get them there.

Q. You were there to look after the interests of the Government?

A. Yes.

Q. You hired a number of teams through agents west of Winnipeg, during the Rebellion?

A. Yes.

Q. Name the first point at which teams were hired.
A. Brandon; I had no agent there, but wired different parties who had teams.
Q. Do you know a person called McGregor at Brandon?
A. Yes.
Q. He hired a number of teams, did he?
A. Yes.
Q. What was the price paid at Brandon?
A. $8.00 per day, same as all others I engaged.
Q. Is that what the Government was charged?
A. Yes.
Q. How were these men paid for their trouble for hiring the teams?
A. They were not to hire them under $7.00 per day. I never made a contract with them, except by telegram, stating that the Government was paying $8.00 per day. We had very great difficulty with our teams, on account of them receiving so many different rates of pay. The $5.00 teams refused to take the same loads that the $10 a day teams take. I cautioned them (the parties furnishing the teams) that I would not allow them for the trouble, but would pay them $8.00 per day.
Q. How many teams did McGregor hire?
A. I don't know the number, I think about one hundred.
Q. In hiring these teams, did you take it upon yourself without sending out a requisition?
A. No,. I had orders from Capt. Bedson and from Mr. Wrigley. I never hired a team without direct orders. I had no power to issue a requisition.
Q. Where was the next point you hired teams?
A. All the way from Brandon to Moosejaw. When we were short of teams, I had to telegraph all over the country.
Q. What were the prices paid?
A. $7 to $8 per day for horses, and $5 to $6 for oxen.
Q. Did the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. get a contract for hay?
A. Yes, they made a contract.
Q. Was it packed hay?
A. Both baled and loose hay.
Q. What was the price for baled hay?
A. $22 per ton, delivered at Indian Head or Qu'Appelle.
Q. What did you get for the loose hay?
A. $20 per ton at Qu'Appelle and Troy.
Q. Who made the contract with you?
A. Arch. McDonald, Chief Factor of H. B. Co. at Fort Qu'Appelle.
Q. He made the contract with you as the Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company?
A. Yes.
Q. How many tons was the contract for the baled hay?
A. Five hundred tons.
Q. How many tons did you deliver?
A. I can't say exactly, but think about 800 tons.
Q. You must have been paid for it?
A. No, not in full.
Q. Sent in your bills?
A. Yes.
Q. How much loose hay did you deliver?
A. One hundred and ninety tons.
Q. What price did you pay for it?
A. We paid from $12 to $15 per ton.
Q. You were a Government officer when you took that contract?
A. The first contract was made before I had anything to do with the Government.
Q. Who bought that hay at Qu'Appelle station?
A. I did.

Q. Was it measured or weighed?
A. It was measured, at five hundred cubic feet to the ton.
Col. Jackson:—
Q. How did you arrive at this conclusion?
A. We supposed 343 cubic feet of hay in stack is a ton, but we allow 500 cubic feet to a ton, as it was measured on the waggon.
Mr. Anderson:—
Q. Who was this hay delivered to, the Government?
A. To the Transport Officers and Supply Officers.
Q. Who checked the quantity of hay that came in to Qu'Appelle station?
A. It was generally Mr. Jones, in my office, on the part of the Transport; and Mr. Swinford, or his clerks, on part of Supply Department.
Q. One of these clerks was your own book-keeper?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you supply any oats to the Government?
A. No, not one bushel, I had 10,000 for sale, and couldn't sell them.
Q. Your blacksmith was also working for the Government?
A. I had dismissed him from the Farm, and he engaged with the Government afterwards.
Q. When did you first meet Col. Whitehead?
A. I can't really state the date, but I think it was the fore part of June.
Q. You saw him before the contract was let to Bell, Lewis & Co., did you not?
A. I think I did.
Q. You know the date of that contract?
A. No, I don't, without referring to it.
Q. Did you meet Col. Whitehead in Winnipeg?
A. Yes.
Q. Have you any idea of when you did come down?
A. I can't tell exactly, but was here some time during May and June.
Q. Were you here on the 18th of May?
A. I cannot say exactly, I may have been.
Q. Were you here on the 19th?
A. I cannot say.
Q. Were you here on the 20th?
A. I can't say, but I never remained here more than a day at any rate.
Q. Would you be astonished to find that you were here on the 18th, 19th, and 20th?
A. Yes, I would be.
Q. How could you be here if you signed that contract with Mr. Lewis at Qu'Appelle?
A. I don't know; I could not be.
Q. Did you not see Mr. Lewis at Qu'Appelle before this contract was let to you? On what day?
A. After the first of May he was there.
Q. How many days would that be before the contract was let?
A. I don't know; I had a great deal of business with Mr. Lewis before contracts or anything ever came up?
Q. Between the first of May and the 22nd?
A. It might have been, he was at the Farm two nights; he drove to Qu'Appelle with me and came back at night.
Q. Was he there for the purpose of finding out the distances and the condition of the trails?
A. No, he had no idea of finding out this; he was there examining the Farm, as he was then negotiating for a large amount of the stock.
Q. You came down to Winnipeg on the 18th?
A. Yes.
Q. You were here on the 19th and then went back to Qu'Appelle and Lewis got the contract.

A. Yes; I never stayed here more than one day.

Q. Who gave J. L. Lewis the information in regard to the distances and the state of the roads, to take this contract on?

A. I gave all the information I could to get him into it.

Q. You went to Mr. Lewis with the intention of trying to induce him to take the contract?

A. I had orders to make a contract with any responsible man; we didn't want anything delayed, or have any trouble about capital.

Q. What is the distance from Qu'Appelle Station to Clarke's Crossing?

A. I think about 215 miles.

Q. How many days does it take a team to take a load and come back empty?

A. Eighteen to twenty-one days.

Q. When were the teams reduced to $4.50 per day?

A. They were never reduced but dismissed, and contractors re-engaged at different prices.

Q. Those who wished to work on had to do so at the $4.50?

A. I had orders to dismiss them; they were not forced to remain on.

Q. And these were really hired by J. L. Lewis at $4.50?

A. Some at $4.50 and some at $5.

Q. The general price was $4.50?

A. Yes.

Q. Who hired the teams at $4.50?

A. I hired some of them.

Q. Were you acting as an agent for Lewis?

A. I was one of the firm; I was in with him, on the start.

Q. So you had an inducement to go in with him?

A. When I made this contract with Mr. Lewis, I had very great trouble to get him to go into it. I knew that every day that we let the thing run on it would cost the Government an enormous sum, and I would be saving thousands of dollars by closing the contract at once. I asked Lewis, as a friend of mine and a strong man financially; and was anxious, to make a contract with him. He said he would not go into it unless I took an interest with him. We figured the thing up, and I said if he could get the figures, I would go into it with him, if Col. Whitehead would accept our terms. I made the contract, and referred it to Col. Whitehead. Between the time I spoke to him and when I made the contract, I hadn't seen Col. Whitehead. This was late in the evening. I don't know the date exactly. I submitted the contract to Whitehead for his acceptance. It was subject to being cancelled within twenty-four hours. When this was accepted, all I had to do as Transport Officer was to dismiss all teams under my control that were not at the front, as fast as they returned to the base, not to interfere with Middleton's camp: and, as I had explained to the Minister at Ottawa, through Mr. Wrigley, I promised to get the teams in as quickly as possible. I notified Captain Bedson that I had taken a contract. He spoke to the General (Middleton), and he objected to me having anything to do with it. That I would either have to resign one position or the other. It was then about the first of June. I concluded to give up the contract, and I notified Lewis that I would have nothing to do with the contract, that it was against the General's orders, and that he would have to run the contract himself.

Col. Jackson:—

Q. What date was that?

A. The fore part of June, perhaps the 4th, when the first convoy was sent out. It must have been between the 4th and 9th. I told Captain Swinford and Lieut.-Col. Forest that I was a contractor, and considered it perfectly legitimate, and when the General objected to it, I gave it up, and have had no interest in it since, directly or indirectly. I never got a dollar out of it, nor put one in.

Mr. Anderson:—

Q. At the time of taking this contract with Lewis, did you advise Col. Whitehead that you were in with Lewis on that contract?

A. I told him afterwards.

Q. When did you tell him?
A. I don't know the exact date.
Q. So he was aware before Lewis was paid, that you were in that when it was first let?
A. I can't tell—I must have told him.
Q. What was the price of that contract?
A. $140 per ton.
Q. Your contract was let to Bell & Lewis at $140 per ton?
A. Yes.
Q. When you were a Government officer?
A. Yes.
Q. Was it not your duty to advise Col. Whitehead that you were a Government officer, and that you had an interest in it?
A. I had no interest in it, only for a few days, when nothing was done.
Q. Are you aware of a contract made between Gen. Laurie and John Stewart?
A. Yes, Stewart told me; and I saw a copy of the contract shown me by Gen. Laurie, Moosejaw.
Q. Where was that from?
A. From Moosejaw to Clarke's Crossing; there was none from Qu'Appelle to Clarke's Crossing. Laurie showed me the contract from Moosejaw to Clarke's Crossing.
Q. Didn't that cover some other trails?
A. No.
Q. In the contract let to John L. Lewis, what was considered a load for teams getting $4.50 per day?
A. I don't know anything about it. Swinford's men loaded the waggons, and the contractors' agents started them off. I only kept the time of teams as they came in, and dismissed them, and saw that they had been paid, and that the thing was properly done. The moment a contract was let, the Transport Officer was powerless.
Q. What number of days did Bell, Lewis & Co.'s teams take to do the round trip from Qu'Appelle to Clarke's Crossing?
A. Our teams were understood to make it in eighteen to twenty-one days.
Q. I think you said that these were hired for a certain sum?
A. Yes, $4.50 per day.
Q. At what date did you tell Gen. Middleton that you were in this thing?
A. I don't know the date, but it was in Regina during Riel's trial; I told him the whole thing exactly as it was in a full report.
Q. Do you know were there any shipping bills at Moosejaw, in the name of Bell & Lewis, given to John Stewart's teams?
A. When I went to Troy, Stewart told me he had a contract from Laurie on the Moosejaw trail, and offered me a half interest if I would advance money to pay the teams; I agreed, and told him he had better allow the one concern to run the whole thing. I offered him half of my interest in the Qu'Appelle trail, telling him that I had a half interest in that. Providing he would give me a half interest in his contract, I would give him half of my interest in Bell & Lewis's contract. He accepted this, and shipped the goods himself in the name of Bell & Lewis. I sent a man to look after it and requisitioned Captain Swinford to send a man to direct the loading and check it off. It was Mr. Jones whom I sent up.
Q. Did he take up those books with Bell, Lewis & Co's bill-heads in?
A. No, it was the regular transport books—we had no others.
Q. Do you know who filled in those headings?
A. We never had them in our office. It was Captain Swinford, or his clerks, I suppose.
Q. Then you arranged with Stewart to share part of his contract—Did you look upon it as a secret arrangement?
A. No, I didn't. I was then an open contractor, and made a written agreement with Stewart, who afterwards determined to refuse these terms.
Q. Is this letter yours? (Reading Exhibit "B")

A. Yes, it sounds very much like my composition.

Q. What did you mean by stating that you had "laid a foundation of a good thing?"

A. Stewart promised me to withdraw, and left for the Elbow. I then made a contract with Ross, from Moosejaw to Clarke's Crossing for $90 per ton as Transport Officer. Laurie had orders to forward all supplies from Swift Current to Battleford. I spoke to him about giving the contract to Stewart in lieu of the one he had given up, providing his price was right. I wrote to Stewart the letter produced telling him to give up the Moose Jaw contract, that I had let it to Ross—saving the Government about $30,000 on the contract. I went to Laurie and made arrangements with him. Ross agreed to the contract. When Stewart returned from the Elbow, he positively refused to agree to this, and went on with the original contract with Laurie. I notified him that I would have nothing to do with it. Laurie then wanted to give him the contract for Swift Current as well, and I objected to it, for two reasons; the first was, that he opposed me in giving that contract to Ross thereby costing the Government the above large sum; second, that he hadn't money to carry it out, and his price was too high.

Q. How did you satisfy Ross about the contract?

A. I went to Ross with General Laurie, and asked him the lowest price he would take. He asked $100, and I beat him down to $90.

Q. What consideration was Stewart receiving?

A. The consideration of another contract. Stewart worked with me because he knew he had no money, and accepted money from me. When Stewart came back, General Laurie, rather than have his authority put aside, insisted on Stewart carrying out the contract he made.

Q. What number of contracts were entered into to convey freight from Moose Jaw to Clarke's Crossing?

A. I think only one, the contracts in the Brigade Office will show for themselves.

Q. Is Captain Howard a stock-holder in the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company?

A. Yes, he is a small stock-holder, a director and Vice-President of the Company.

Q. Was Captain Howard at your house on business regarding the contract to Swift Current?

A. No, never. Howard used to speak to me about teams, as he had a contract up there. His teams were at Swift Current, where I had no power to control them.

Q. Can you give the date when Howard informed you that he had a contract from Saskatchewan to Battleford?

A. No,

Q. Did you send Mr. Jones, one of your clerks, to Saskatchewan Landing?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Jones issue bills in the name of Bell, Lewis & Co. at Saskatchewan Landing?

A. No, he issued the first lot in his own name, as he did not know in whose name to do it. I did not know the cost of the different articles. The men had regular rations, the horses so many pounds per day; at first, 45 pounds, afterwards I reduced it to 37 pounds.

Q. You estimate it will take eighteen days; what would the cost of rations be for that period?

A. They drew eighteen days' rations, and carried it with them; I did not estimate the cost.

Q. Howard's contract was $125 per ton from Swift Current, or Saskatchewan Landing to Battleford; he took no other contract?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you know the number of days it takes for the round trip from Saskatchewan Landing to Battleford?

A. It used to take our own teams twenty-four days.

Q. Do you know what teams could have been got for at that time?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did you ever make an estimate of what it actually cost the Government a ton?

A. I didn't,—it would be purely guess work, as far as my knowledge went, but I think fifty per cent. was saved in making any of the contracts.

Q. Do you remember telegraphing John Wood, who was in charge of Lewis' teams, to re-load at Humboldt and take a heavy load to Clark's Crossing?

A. I might have telegraphed him to load one time when we took some stuff from Toronto, which was left at Humboldt, and, rather than have the teams come back from there, I told him to load up there. We wanted the convoy to keep together.

A. The bills on which the contract is paid will explain this. It was signed at Troy by Captain Swinford, and receipted for by the Supply Officer at its destination.

Q. What was John Wood receiving per day?

A. He was hired by the Government as Superintendent from Troy to Touchwood, at $5 per day. When the contracts were let, Wood was discharged and entered the service of Bell, Lewis & Co.

Q. What time was Wood paid off?

A. I don't know the time exactly, but the pay sheets will show it: but he didn't get one dollar that he hadn't earned.

Col. Whitehead:—

Q. Will you state whether, directly or indirectly, I had a conversation with you, or you with me, in reference to any share or interest I had with Bell, Lewis & Co., Thomas Howard, or any one else?

A. I state, most emphatically, no.

W. R. BELL's evidence continued.

November 18th, 1885.

Col. Jackson:—

Q. What date did you assume the duties of a Transport Officer?

A. It was the 5th or 6th of April.

Q. What was the date of the contract of 500 tons of hay with the H. B. Co.

A. It was the day before. I got my appointment from Bedson, and coming after looking over the roads, I made the arrangements about the hay.

Q. What was the date of the second contract?

A. I have forgotten it, but it wasn't a contract other than a telegram, which I received from Mr. Clark, of the H. B. Co., asking me if our Company could supply them with 28 cars of hay, and at what price. I wired him the price, and he accepted, as it was much the lowest offer he had.

Q. Can you produce the telegram or the contract?

A. No, it is in town here, in the Hudson Bay Company's office.

Q. What did you receive for consideration, in giving up your interest in the Bell, Lewis & Co. contract?

A. Not a dollar.

Q. What money did you receive, in the way of cheques, from the firms of Bell & Lewis, and Bell, Lewis, Yates & Walsh?

A. I have had a great deal of business with Mr. Lewis during the last three months in a private way, and he held some $3,000 of my money which I sent from home to him, as my agent to make a payment on some stock I had purchased from one John Northwood.

Q. Was this paid back in more than one check?

A. Northwood, after I had bought the stock, sold it to Mr. Boyle, and Lewis did not have to pay this money: he therefore paid it back to me as I required it—$2500 from Troy, and I gave him $500 more, which was $3000 altogether; and he paid back, July 10th, $1,000; July 28th, $585; Sept. 9th, $1,000. That is all I deposited in the Bank, but I have got from him several small sums since, and he still owes me about $200.00.

Q. Did you ever receive a cheque for between $20,000 and $30,000 from him at once?

A. No, I never saw such a thing; that is the only money I ever received from Mr. Lewis in any way. This money was my own, and only returned to me.

Q. Did you order or recall Ross and Riddell's teams, after they had started to bring down the 7th?

A. I got a telegram from Gen. Middleton, to send teams to bring down the 7th from Clarke's Crossing to Moosejaw. I wired to Laurie asking if he could send teams from Moosejaw, and I got no answer that afternoon, nor the next day. I telegraphed again,

having heard that Laurie had gone East, to the officer commanding at Moosejaw. I could get no answer; I then got our own teams, sending to the Farm for them. My orders were to send the teams, but only pay $5 per day. Our teams made Qu'Appelle that night at ten o'clock, and started next morning, but I could not stop them till they reached Touchwood, which I did. The next morning I received a telegram that the teams at Moosejaw were ready to go, and I wired to stop them. I got another telegram saying the teams had started, and I then wired to let them go, and I would recall the teams sent from Qu'Appelle. I then telegraphed to Touchwood, and Col. Dennison's Brigade, coming down, came with those teams.

Q. Do you know the date your teams started?

A. No, I have forgotten, but it was the day after Gen. Laurie went east. Sinclair had a lot of teams arrived from Battleford, and he undertook to bring these down.

Q. Why did you recall these teams? (Moosejaw Convoy.)

A. Because I had sent sufficient from Troy.

Q. Did you order them to proceed on the same or on the following day?

A. I will have to quote from those telegrams, the first mistake was made by not getting an answer from Laurie. We could not stop them between Moosejaw and Touchwood.

Q. These teams were paid, I suppose?

A. No, they are not.

Q. Were they not included in the account and charged for?

A. Yes. Of the twenty-five teams, eight of them went to Humboldt, on Gen. Middleton's orders, to bring down Major Jarvis' Battery; they missed each other on the trail.

Q. It has been reported that your teams took the regular trail.

A. Yes. Major Jarvis took the south trail, or wrong trail.

WAR CLAIMS. COMMISSION.

W. L. BOYLE's evidence. Nov. 18th, 1885.

++++++++++++++++++

Concluding observations: At the outset of this report (p. 68) , the Commission listed the following summary of claim amounts, overpayments, and refunds requested:

1308 Claims received and fyled, amount to $700,514.08. In addition the Hudson's Bay Co. accounts amount to $1,757,032.64, and the Canadian Pacific Railway to $852,331.32, making a total of $3,289,878.04. Claims have been reported upon amounting to $3,270,022.19. Recommended for payment $2,918,024.03. Rejected $139,850.19. Deducted as over-charge $212,147.97,— making a total reduction of $351,998.16.

Of the $3.2 million claimed, $2.9 million was paid out; and almost $140,000 was rejected and overpayments were requested to be refunded to the federal Government, including the $1,890.45 referred to in the summary below:

REPORT No. 87.

OTTAWA, 9th January, 1886.

WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION.

REPORT.

For consideration of the Honorable the MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

W. C. Nos. 646 and 645, 141 ard 6.—W. R. Bell, for travelling expenses, $208.30; hay delivered at Touchwood and Fort Qu'Appelle, $1583.75; hay account, 27th May, $927.50; hire of ponies and carts, teams, &c., $2850; in all, $5569.55.

Major Bell, having accepted the position of Transport Officer at the base, viz., Qu'Appelle, exceeded his duty by entering into a contract for a quantity of hay with the Hudson's Bay Co., who were agents for the Government: it is therefore submitted that Major Bell be called to account for the difference between the cost price of the said hay and the price charged to the Government, viz.: $7030. The Commission allowing the ample price of $15 per ton for the hay.

With regard to the account for teaming, the Commission deduct $2 per day from the 1st May for all teams supplied the Transport Service, taking off $430, as Major Bell should have charged his teams at a price similar to that received by others. Total deduction, $7460. The statement underneath gives details of Debits and Credits, and as the Debits exceed the Credits, Major Bell should be called upon to refund the difference, viz., $1890.45.

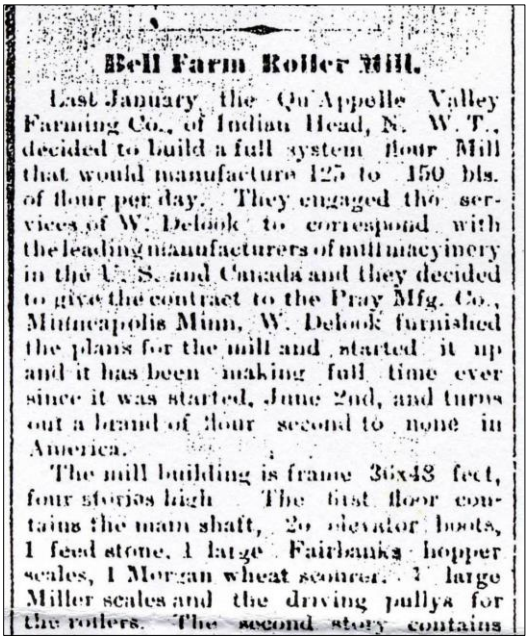
Although Major Bell's simultaneous involvement with his role as Transport Officer and manager of the Bell Farm is criticized, no recommendations are found in this document relating to deliberate fraud, nor are any legal charges mentioned.

1885 – Oct. 19 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. Hon. T. White, Min. of the Interior, visits the Bell Farm to discuss squatters

"**MANITOBA AND N.W.T . . . INDIAN HEAD** – **Settlers Grievances** – Indian Head, Oct. 28 – The Hon. T. White, Minister of the Interior, arrived here by special train at 6 p.m. yesterday. He was the guest of Major Bell. At 10 a.m. to-day he was presented with an address by the municipality setting forth the grievances of settlers, praying for the reduction of pre-emptions to one dollar per acre, for representation at Ottawa and other minor matters. Mr. White replied that he would give the grievances every consideration on his return to Ottawa. The Bell farm squatters, whose claims are yet unsettled, then presented a petition praying for an early adjustment to their claims by the Government. Mr. White in replying stated that

everything would be done to hurry that matter, and he hoped an amicable settlement would be arrived at before long."

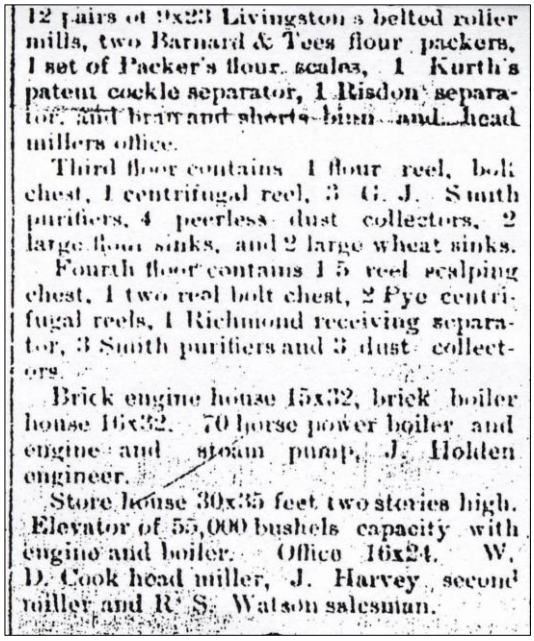
1885 – Oct 24 – *Regina Leader* – data on Grist Mill construction, including designer/ miller: W.D Cook, J. Harvey, second miller, and R.S. Watson, salesman; J. Holden is engineer. Builder_____; brick engine house and brick boiler house ("W. Delook" is probably W.D. Cook, head miller for the Bell Grist Mill)



Bell Farm Roller Mill.

Last January the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., of Indian Head, N. W. T., decided to build a full system flour Mill that would manufacture 125 to 150 bls. of flour per day. They engaged the services of W. Delook to correspond with the leading manufacturers of mill machinery in the U. S. and Canada and they decided to give the contract to the Pray Mfg. Co., Minneapolis Minn. W. Delook furnished the plans for the mill and started it up and it has been making full time ever since it was started, June 2nd, and turns out a brand of flour second to none in America.

The mill building is frame 36x48 feet, four stories high. The first floor contains the main shaft, 2o elevator boots, 1 feed stone, 1 large Fairbanks hopper scales, 1 Morgan wheat scourer, 1 large Miller scales and the driving pullys for the rollers. The second story contains



12 pairs of 9x23 Livingston's belted roller mills, two Barnard & Tees flour packers, 1 set of Packer's flour scales, 1 Kurth's patent cockle separator, 1 Risdon separator, and bran and shorts bins and head millers office.

Third floor contains 1 flour reel, bolt chest, 1 centrifugal reel, 3 G. J. Smith purifiers, 4 peerless dust collectors, 2 large flour sinks, and 2 large wheat sinks.

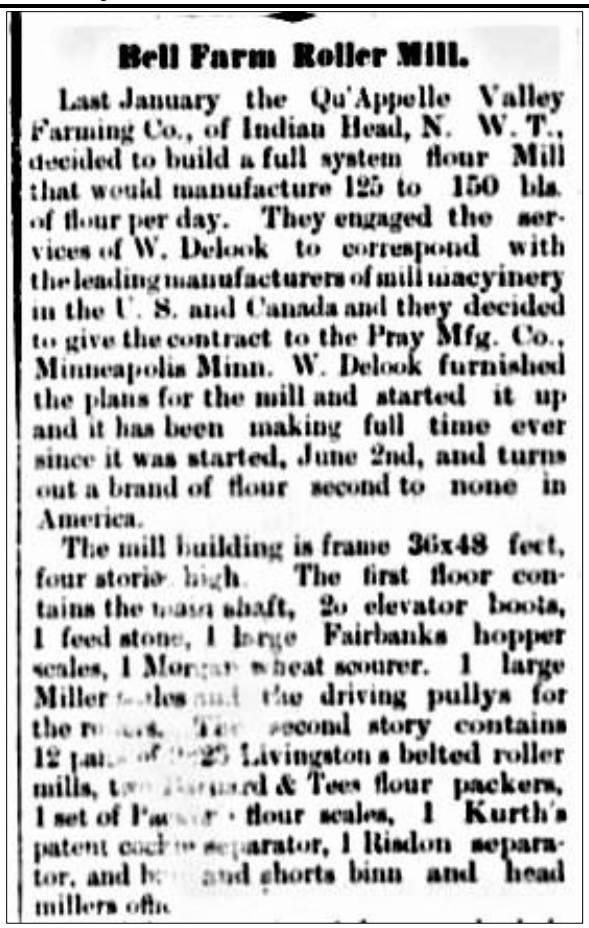
Fourth floor contains 1 5 reel reslping chest, 1 two reel bolt chest, 2 Pye centrifugal reels, 1 Richmond receiving separator, 3 Smith purifiers and 3 dust collectors.

Brick engine house 15x32, brick boiler house 16x32. 70 horse power boiler and engine and steam pump, J. Holden engineer.

Store house 30x35 feet two stories high. Elevator of 55,000 bushels capacity with engine and boiler. Office 16x24. W. D. Cook head miller, J. Harvey second roiller and R. S. Watson salesman.

Part 1 of 2: 275 kb Part 2 of 2: 251 kb

1885 – Oct. 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 3 – Bell Mill is frame, 4 stories high, with brick boiler house and brick power house



Bell Farm Roller Mill.

Last January the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., of Indian Head, N. W. T., decided to build a full system flour Mill that would manufacture 125 to 150 bls. of flour per day. They engaged the services of W. Delook to correspond with the leading manufacturers of mill macyinery in the U. S. and Canada and they decided to give the contract to the Pray Mfg. Co., Minneapolis Minn. W. Delook furnished the plans for the mill and started it up and it has been making full time ever since it was started, June 2nd, and turns out a brand of flour second to none in America.

The mill building is frame 36x48 feet, four stories high. The first floor contains the main shaft, 2o elevator boots, 1 feed stone, 1 large Fairbanks hopper scales, 1 Morgan wheat scourer. 1 large Miller scales and the driving pullys for the rolls. The second story contains 12 pairs of 9x25 Livingston s belted roller mills, two Howard & Tees flour packers, 1 set of Fairbanks flour scales, 1 Kurth's patent cockle separator, 1 Risdon separator, and bran and shorts binn and head millers office.

Third floor contains 1 flour reel, bolt chest, 1 centrifugal reel. 3 G. J. Smith purifiers, 4 [illegible] dust collectors, 2 large flour sinks, and 2 large wheat sinks.

Fourth floor contains 1 5 reel scalping chest, 1 two reel bolt chest, 2 Pye centrifugal reels, 1 Richmond receiving separator, 3 Smith purifiers and 3 dust collectors.

Brick engine house 15x32, brick boiler house 16x32. 70 horse power boiler and engine and steam pump, J. Holden engineer.

Store house 30x3[illegible] feet two stories high. Elevator of 5[illegible],000 bushels capacity with engine and boiler. Offices 16x24. W. D. Cook head miller, J. Harvey second miller and T. S. Watson salesman.

Part 1 of 2: 114 kb

Part 2 of 2: 69 kb - get a better copy

1885 – Oct. 29 – *Moosomin Courier*, p. 6 – Gov. Gen. Lord Lorne comments on Bell Farm vs small farms

> "His Excellency in referring to the Bell Farm said: He did not think that with their exceptional advantages of proximity to a railroad, and being able to utilize machinery to the fullest extent, they were any criterion as to what can be done by farmers in this country. His opinion is that what we want here is not self-binders and steam ploughs, but good hard working men, somewhat of the Ontario type, and he is right. It is not machinery that is wanted here as much as population. Let us have something that will consume as well as produce, and let our cultivators live and spend their money in the country and upon the land they earn it off. His Excellency expressed it as his opinion that mixed farming would prove more profitable than depending on wheat alone. – Spectator"

1885 – Oct. 31 – *NWT Gazette* - E.H. Eberts appointed Notary Public

1885 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
199	Oct. 17, 1885	*V. Andheimer*	Toronto	Ontario

200	Oct. 25, 1885	*E. Bougnier*	*Peruwelz*, Belgium	
201	"	Gabriel *Bougnier*	*Peruwelz*, Belgium	
202	"	L. Bougnier	*Peruwelz*, Belgium	
203	"	Thomas White	Ottawa	Ontario – Conservative Member of Parliament in 1885; Minister of the Interior Aug. 8, 1886 Qu'Appelle Progress reports. Hon Thomas White (Minister of the Interior) touring. Includes Edgeley Farm.
204		*Lynwode Perevia*	Ottawa	
205		*C. .....*	Qu'Appelle Station	
206		A.A. Farley, Capt. "B" Battery	Quebec	Quebec
207		Jas. S. Truberry, Surg, "B" Battery	No Information	

1885 – Nov. 5 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> Indian Head. "The Hon Thomas White paid us a visit last Tuesday (20th). He arrived here by special train at 6 pm and was the guest of Major Bell."
>
> ". . . The Bell Farm Squatters then presented a memorial praying that their claims should be looked into at an early date and settlement made." White promised to look into the matter, and also try to reduce the cost of pre-emptions.
>
> "Mr. Insinger, of the Bell Farm, returned from a visit to Winnipeg on Friday. We don't know what kind of a time he had, but from the happy smile on his face when he arrived we should judge 'excellent.'" [*Insinger was from Holland; later moved to Yorkton.]*

1885 – Nov 9 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p.____ - – check for details – [Frank's Note: No newspaper printed on this date]

1885 – Nov. 11 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Critique of Major Bell relationship with Miniter of Militia [Free Press basically pro-Liberal and anti-Conservative at this time]

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11, 1885.

THE "MAJOR" AND THE MINISTER.

Shortly after the close of the late rebellion certain swindles in connection with the transport and supplies departments came to our knowledge, and we immediately called the attention of the Government to them, demanding that there should be a thorough and impartial investigation before suspicious accounts were paid. We pointed out the disgraceful frauds that had been perpetrated by certain officials and contractors. We gave names, facts and figures in support of our assertions.

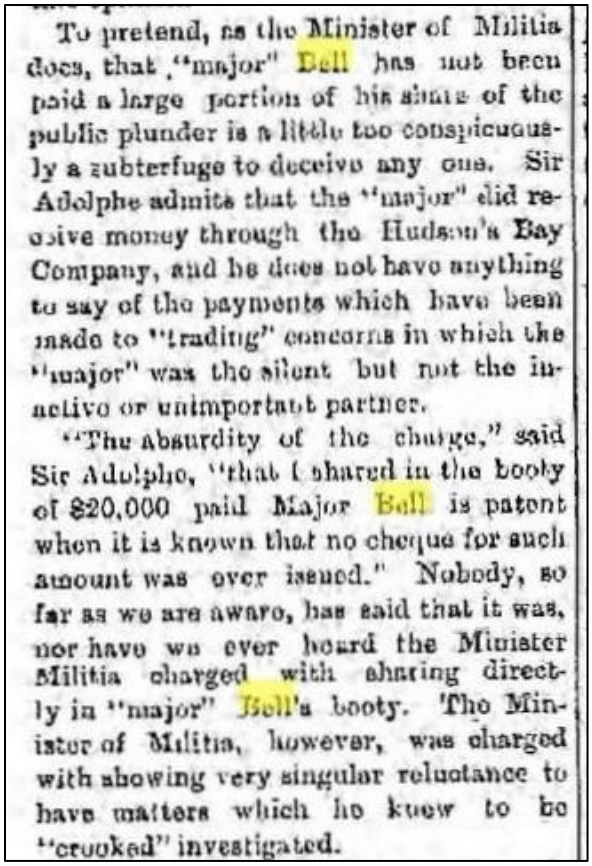
Until compelled by the weight of public opinion, the Minister of Militia paid no attention to our demands, although he had, as we asserted then and as we can prove, direct knowledge of the correctness of our charge. The whole story of what had been going on had been poured into his ear by a staunch Conservative who was able to back, and did back his words with documentary evidence of their truthfulness.

Part 1 of 4 87 kb

At length when he dared no longer refuse the Minister of Militia appointed a Commission to look into accounts. That Commission was worse than a farce from its inception. It was composed of men who had themselves been connected with the very matters on which they were asked to pronounce, and some of whom had, as every one believes, profited more largely than honestly from that connection. This Commission had no power to compel the attendance of any one before it or to enforce the production of necessary documents. The Minister of Militia says they were empowered to take evidence under oath. We say that they did not take evidence in that way. Persons who volunteered to give evidence before them went in and told their stories as they pleased, none making them afraid.

A more silly and palpable attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the public than this Commission business has been no one has ever heard of. There is not an intelligent individual who has paid any attention to its doings who is not of this opinion.

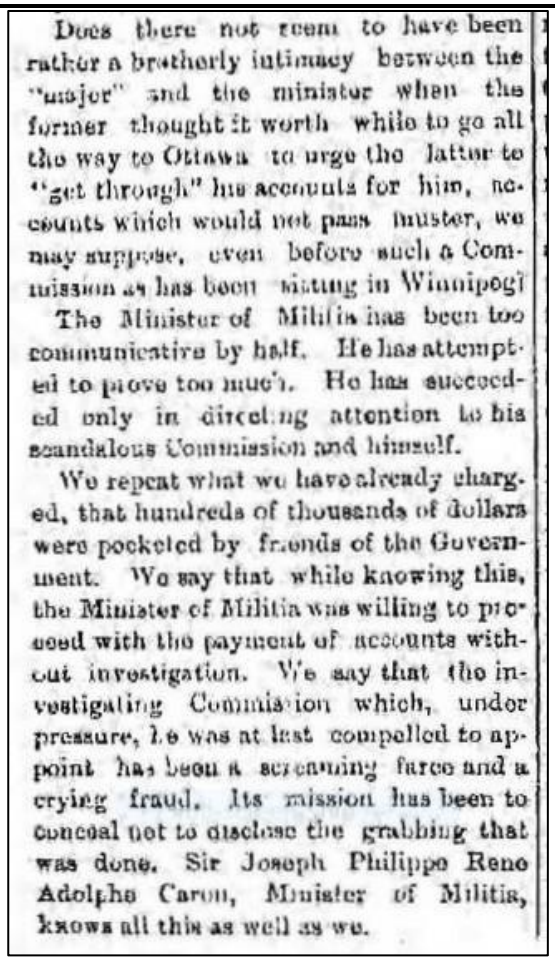
Part 2 of 4 85 kb



To pretend, as the Minister of Militia does, that "major" Bell has not been paid a large portion of his share of the public plunder is a little too conspicuously a subterfuge to deceive any one. Sir Adolphe admits that the "major" did receive money through the Hudson's Bay Company, and he does not have anything to say of the payments which have been made to "trading" concerns in which the "major" was the silent but not the inactive or unimportant partner.

"The absurdity of the charge," said Sir Adolphe, "that I shared in the booty of $20,000 paid Major Bell is patent when it is known that no cheque for such amount was ever issued." Nobody, so far as we are aware, has said that it was, nor have we ever heard the Minister Militia charged with sharing directly in "major" Bell's booty. The Minister of Militia, however, was charged with showing very singular reluctance to have matters which he knew to be "crooked" investigated.

Part 3 of 4 78 kb



Does there not seem to have been rather a brotherly intimacy between the "major" and the minister when the former thought it worth while to go all the way to Ottawa to urge the latter to "get through" his accounts for him, accounts which would not pass muster, we may suppose, even before such a Commission as has been sitting in Winnipeg?

The Minister of Militia has been too communicative by half. He has attempted to prove too much. He has succeeded only in directing attention to his scandalous Commission and himself.

We repeat what we have already charged, that hundreds of thousands of dollars were pocketed by friends of the Government. We say that while knowing this, the Minister of Militia was willing to proceed with the payment of accounts without investigation. We say that the investigating Commission which, under pressure, he was at last compelled to appoint has been a screaming farce and a crying fraud. Its mission has been to conceal not to disclose the grabbing that was done. Sir Joseph Philippe Rene Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, knows all this as well as we.

Part 4 of 4 90 kb

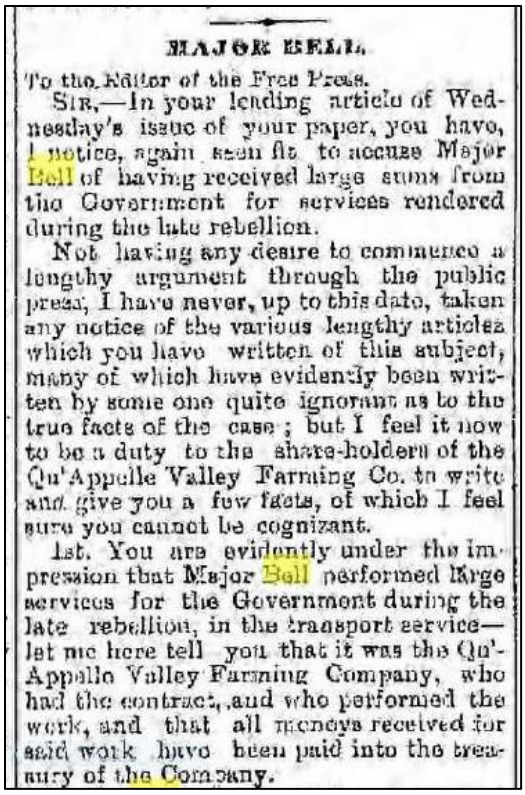
1885 – Nov. 12 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette, p. 2*

Indian Head. "Major Bell left for the east on Thursday morning's train."

"Captain McKay, of the Indian Head Home Guards, has issued an order that all arms and accoutrements be turned over to Lieut. Fishleigh. This looks like we are not going to have another rebellion. . . . "

[Complaint about no grain buyers at Indian Head. Bell Farm (and Wright farm) also mentioned.]

1885 – Nov. 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Boyle defends Bell in letter to the *Free Press*



MAJOR BELL.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR,—In your leading article of Wednesday's issue of your paper, you have, I notice, again seen fit to accuse Major Bell of having received large sums from the Government for services rendered during the late rebellion.

Not having any desire to commence a lengthy argument through the public press, I have never, up to this date, taken any notice of the various lengthy articles which you have written of this subject, many of which have evidently been written by some one quite ignorant as to the true facts of the case; but I feel it now to be a duty to the share-holders of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. to write and give you a few facts, of which I feel sure you cannot be cognizant.

1st. You are evidently under the impression that Major Bell performed large services for the Government during the late rebellion, in the transport service—let me here tell you that it was the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, who had the contract, and who performed the work, and that all moneys received for said work have been paid into the treasury of the Company.

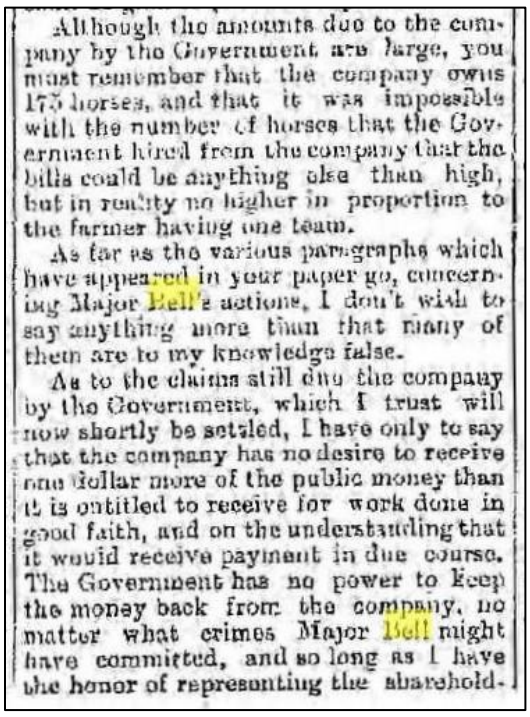
Part 1 of 4 121 kb

Major Bell, who is nothing more than the Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, acted under instructions from the Board of Directors in undertaking any work for the forwarding supplies with the teams of the Company.

The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company is a corporation with shareholders scattered throughout both Canada and England, and any moneys recieved from the Government will be for the benefit of the Company, and not for Major Bell, as you seem so anxious to make the public believe.

At the time the rebellion broke out, General Middleton on arriving at Qu'Appelle, found that at that time the only available horses to be procured were those belonging to the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, and the General insisted upon these teams being put at the disposal of the Government. The company agreed to this request, and although a liberal allowance was made in payment for the work the company's teams performed, I am prepared at any time to prove beyond any doubt to any reasonable man, that the company was a loser by the transaction, for the company was unable owing to this, to put under crop some six thousand acres of land which had been prepared the previous year at a great expense, and which was ready for seeding, and which the company was obliged to leave idle, owing to the absence of the teams. These are facts which I shall be glad to prove at any time.

Part 2 of 4 144 kb

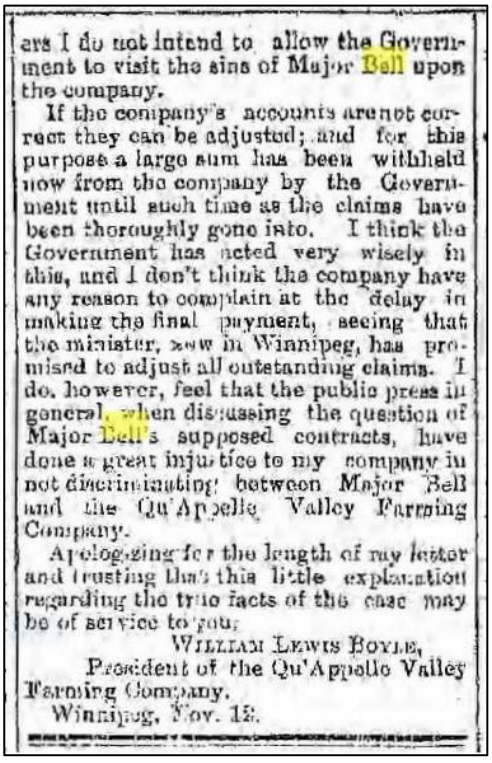


Although the amounts due to the company by the Government are large, you must remember that the company owns 175 horses, and that it was impossible with the number of horses that the Government hired from the company that the bills could be anything else than high, but in reality no higher in proportion to the farmer having one team.

As far as the various paragraphs which have appeared in your paper go, concerning Major Bell's actions, I don't wish to say anything more than that many of them are to my knowledge false.

As to the claims still due the company by the Government, which I trust will now shortly be settled, I have only to say that the company has no desire to receive one dollar more of the public money than it is entitled to receive for work done in good faith, and on the understanding that it would receive payment in due course. The Government has no power to keep the money back from the company, no matter what crimes Major Bell might have committed, and so long as I have the honor of representing the shareholders I do not intend to allow the Government to visit the sins of Major Bell upon the company.

Part 3 of 4 100 kb



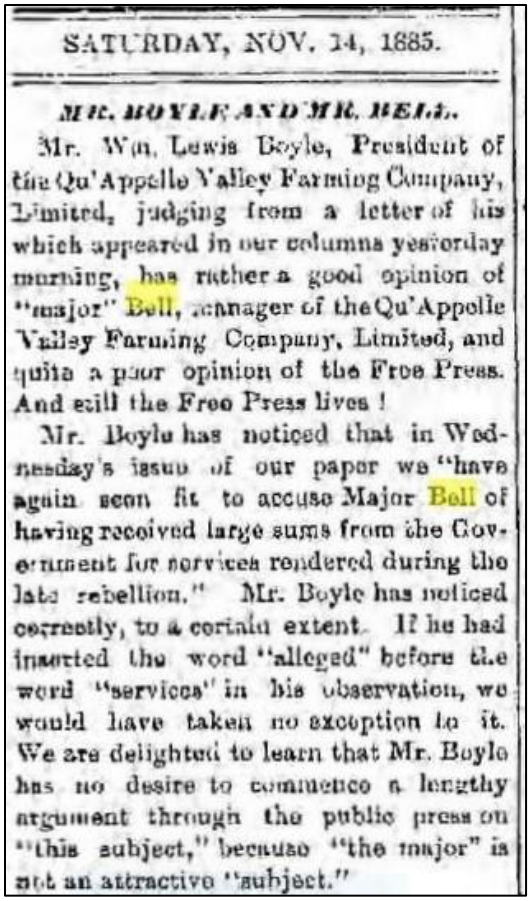
If the company's accounts are not correct they can be adjusted; and for this purpose a large sum has been withheld now from the company by the Government until such time as the claims have been thoroughly gone into. I think the Government has acted very wisely in this, and I don't think the company have any reason to complain at the delay in making the final payment, seeing that the minister, now in Winnipeg, has promised to adjust all outstanding claims. I do, however, feel that the public press in general, when discussing the question of Major Bell's supposed contracts, have done a great injustice to my company in not discriminating between Major Bell and the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company.

Apologizing for the length of my letter and trusting that this little explanation regarding the true facts of the case may be of service to you,

I am, Sir, yours truly,
WILLIAM LEWIS BOYLE,
President of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company.

Winnipeg, Nov. 13.

Part 4 of 4 111 kb



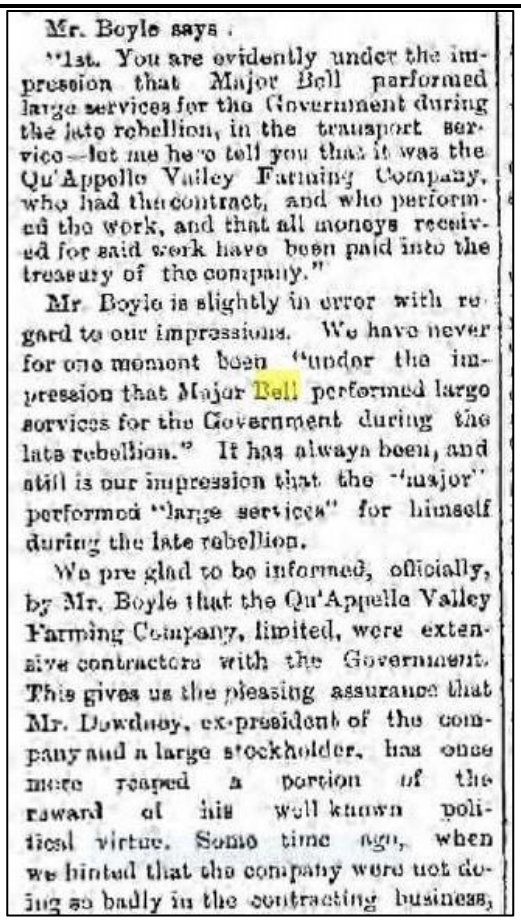
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1885.

MR. BOYLE AND MR. BELL.

Mr. Wm. Lewis Boyle, President of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, judging from a letter of his which appeared in our columns yesterday morning, has rather a good opinion of "major" Bell, manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, and quite a poor opinion of the Free Press. And still the Free Press lives!

Mr. Boyle has noticed that in Wednesday's issue of our paper we "have again seen fit to accuse Major Bell of having received large sums from the Government for services rendered during the late rebellion." Mr. Boyle has noticed correctly, to a certain extent. If he had inserted the word "alleged" before the word "services" in his observation, we would have taken no exception to it. We are delighted to learn that Mr. Boyle has no desire to commence a lengthy argument through the public press on "this subject," because "the major" is not an attractive "subject."

Part1 of 6 83 kb



Mr. Boyle says:

"1st. You are evidently under the impression that Major Bell performed large services for the Government during the late rebellion, in the transport service—let me here tell you that it was the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, who had the contract, and who performed the work, and that all moneys received for said work have been paid into the treasury of the company."

Mr. Boyle is slightly in error with regard to our impressions. We have never for one moment been "under the impression that Major Bell performed large services for the Government during the late rebellion." It has always been, and still is our impression that the "major" performed "large services" for himself during the late rebellion.

We are glad to be informed, officially, by Mr. Boyle that the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, limited, were extensive contractors with the Government. This gives us the pleasing assurance that Mr. Dowdney, ex-president of the company and a large stockholder, has once more reaped a portion of the reward of his well known political virtue. Some time ago, when we hinted that the company were not doing so badly in the contracting business,

Part 2 of 6 102 kb

we were promptly assured that they had nothing to do with it; that the "major" was just trying to earn a little pocket money for himself. It is gratifying to us, therefore, to know that we were formerly correct, and that those who corrected us were lying—under a mistake. We take this opportunity of congratulating His Honor, Mr. Dawdney, on the result of the season's "farming" operations, so far as his company is concerned.

We must decidedly correct one remark of Mr. Boyle's. It is this:

Any moneys received from the Government will be for the benefit of the company, and not for Major Bell, as you seem so anxious to make the public believe.

We have manifested no such anxiety. We have never for one moment confounded the "major" and the manager, nor have we sought to confuse others. We know the extent of the company's operations, as Mr. Boyle can see if he will take the trouble to look back at our editorial columns of Tuesday. We also have a fairly accurate idea of the "major's" doings, as Mr. Boyle will gather from a more careful perusal of our article of Wednesday which has called forth his letter.

Part 3 of 6 100 kb

Mr. Boyle, we trust, will pardon us if we wait until the visible supply of salt in the city has been materially increased before attempting to swallow the following:

"At the time the rebellion broke out, General Middleton on arriving at Qu'Appelle, found that at that time the only available horses to be procured were those belonging to the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, and the General insisted upon these teams being put at the disposal of the Government."

At the very time when General Middleton was "insisting" that the teams of the company should be put at the disposal of the Government at $10 per day, other teams could be procured in abundance for $6 a day. Of course we dislike exceedingly to seem to doubt the whole-souled patriotism of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, but it appears to us, looking at the matter cursorily, that—a thought strikes us, however, General Middleton eccentricity as regards horses is alone to blame. This conclusion is strengthened by the remembrance of the manner in which the General afterwards "insisted," at Batoche, on a certain team being put at the disposal of the Government."

On this subject Mr. Boyle continues:—

"Although the amounts due to the company by the Government are large, you must remember that the company owns 175 horses, and that it was impossible with the number of horses that the Government hired from the company that the bills could be anything else than high

Part 4 of 6 126 kb

but in reality no higher in proportion to the farmer having one team."

We shall try, since Mr. Boyle insists upon it, to remember that the company owns 175 horses; but we fear that our treacherous memory will soon let slip the "fact" that the company's teams, at $10 a day, were "in reality no higher in proportion to the farmer having one team"—at $6 a day.

It may appear like discourtesy on our part to adversely criticise Mr. Boyle on so many points, but we trust he will forgive us if, in the most kindly manner, we insinuate our disapproval of the following gentlemanly, yet vigorous, sentence from his letter:

"As far as the various paragraphs which have appeared in your paper go, concerning Major Bell's actions, I don't wish to say anything more than that many of them are to my knowledge false."

Part 5 of 6 66 kb

We wish to express our regret that Mr. Boyle has allowed himself to fall into the error of not saying "anything more." What he has said is so very good that we cannot help believing that if he had continued he might ultimately have surprised and delighted us by calling us "liars." When Mr. Boyle strikes such a particularly rich literary vein he should follow the illustrious example of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, of which he is president, and "work it for all it is worth."

Part 6 of 6 40 kb

1885 – Nov. 19 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __ [Riel hanged on Nov. 16.]

Indian Head: "Messrs Osment, Irwin, White and Fred Fishleigh attended court at Regina last Friday and Saturday. Among the curiosities brought back by them was a shaving from Riel's coffin."

"Jno. Anderson, late of the Bell Farm, and his nephew, 'wee Jamie,' left for old Scotia by Tuesday morning's train."

1885 – Nov. 23 – *Man. Daily Free Press*, p, 2 – Bell and Rebellion costs questioned in *Montreal Herald*

"MONTREAL HERALD: Mr. Boyle will find that the Government can develop an amazing power of keeping back money that they do not wish to pay, and while they are doing so it would be well if Mr. Boyle, who must know all about the matter, would vouchsafe some explanation on those points that have been exercising the public mind. Who sold the hay to the Government and who bought it for them; how much did the Government pay for it, and how was this divided? How much was paid for Bell Farm teams, and what was the division in this case? As the teams were paid heavily for certain work, did they do it? Did they deliver the stores they were paid for, or did they throw them away, and, if so, does the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. propose to reimburse the Government for the loss caused by their men?

1885 – Nov. 27 - *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. 6

Indian Head. "The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. are now paying cash for wheat or full weight in flour. Their mill is now running day, and night, another set of men having been placed on. They have a special arrangement with the C.P.R. for milling grain in transit and for small lots shipped from stations between and including Moose Jaw and Broadview."

1885 – Dec. 3 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "The Bell farm shipped twelve tons of dressed hogs to Winnipeg on Saturday and more to follow."

1885 – Dec. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 6

Wolseley. Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P. of the Ontario legislature, has a farm north of Wolseley. Several sections. This year, 1,100 acres in wheat, 900 acres in oats, 100 in barley. 51 horses. 30 men at harvest. [This item shows that other large farms are in the area. Sir John Lister-Kaye's farm of 600-700 acres is near Balgonie. In November he left to spend the winter on his California estate. Then there's Edgeley Farm (of Vernon Church fame.) Owned by the Sykes brothers of England.]

1885 – Dec. 10 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* p.__

"The working staff in the farming department of the Bell farm has been reduced, back salaries have all been paid and everybody is happy."

"Mr. Allan, of Winnipeg, is assisting Mr. Ebert of the grain buying department of the Bell farm."

"Bell farm buying wheat."

1885 – Dec 12 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __ - – check for details – Frank's Note: No newspaper printed on this date.

1885 – Dec. 17 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "The Bell Farm Flour Mill had to shut down on Saturday on account of flues burning off. They expect to begin work again on Monday. This will not interfere with grists being exchanged."

"W.L. Boyle, president of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farm Company was the guest of Major Bell on Saturday and Sunday returning to Winnipeg on Sunday evening."

1885 – Dec. 18 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 6

Indian Head. "One thing badly needed here is a school. No interest at all seems to be manifested in the education of the young. As far as scholastic advantages are concerned, our boys and girls are little better than the Indian paposes (sic) which swarm through our town. Some say it is because of the opposition from the bachelor part of our community, but a more probable cause is the paralyzing effect of the great anti-progress monopoly, the Bell Farm."

1885 – Dec. 24 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. Mistake last week. "It was the elevator engine, not the mill, that gave out"

"Mr. K. Freeman of Winnipeg is here looking after his interest in the Osment and Freeman partnership, which expired Dec. 10."

"In last week's issue of the Qu'Appelle Progress their Indian Head correspondent ascribed the absence of school, first to the opposition of the bachelors and then to the opposition of the Bell Farm. These two assertions area as foolish as they are untrue, and could only emanate from the Webster brain of an anti-Bell Farmer."

1885 – Dec. 31 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"6,200 acres are ready for seed on the Bell farm."

1885-86 – Winter – *Russell Banner* (reported on 24 June 1920, p. 12) – Attempted robbery during trip to Chicago with Col. Otter - anecdote.

The writer may be pardoned for telling a story to illustrate Major Bell's coolness, courage and resource in a difficult position. It has never been told in print and certainly deserves to go on record. The writer got it from the Major's own lips, when none but the Major and himself were present, and he can tell it almost in Major Bell's own words. He said something like this:

"In the winter after the rebellion I and Colonel (now General) Ottery were in Chicago. We stayed at an hotel on Clark street. I must tell you that when this thing happened I was wearing a fur coat, had a three hundred dollar watch in my pocket, and about nine hundred dollars in money. So I would have been a pretty good haul. One evening I went to the hotel office and asked if Colonel Ottery had come in yet. The clerk said he had not. A very gentlemanly looking man was standing at the office counter, and he said very politely, "Excuse me but are you Major Bell?" I said I was, and the stranger said, "Colonel Ottery is over at my place. It is close here and I shall be very pleased if you will go over with me, and we will join him." Having nothing better to do I consented without the least suspicion. We went to a big brick block, with stores below which were shut as it was past closing time. We went in at the side door and upstairs. The place was very quiet, and I remember thinking to myself that it was a long way up. However, at last he opened a door; and at one glance I knew I was in a trap. Two men were seated at a table playing cards, but Colonel Ottery wasn't there, and never had been. "Where's the Colonel?" said my friend. The men said he had gone out and said he'd come back later. By this time I was beginning to think pretty quick. How was I to get out of there, for I could see I had been inveigled up there to be plundered. My introducer, who really seemed a refined and very gentlemanly chap, suggested I should wait. The other two invited us to take a hand at the game. I wouldn't—said I didn't play cards. Then my friend sat in to the game and very soon said to me, "Here, Major, this seems to be a pretty good thing; Iv'e won thirty dollars; better take a hand," but I still declined. All the while I was thinking hard how I was to get out of there. I remembered seeing in that day's paper an account of a man who had been enticed by confidence men, and when he came to himself, having been drugged, he was lying naked in an unoccupied house on the outskirts of the city. This didn't make me feel any better, but of course I acted as unconcerned as I possibly could. It was no use making a bolt for the three would be after me like wolves, and for any sound, we were the only people in the building. All at once I got an idea. The three men were seated at the table, and I noticed they were sitting on heavy oak stools. The man I came in with I was not afraid of and one of the other men was a little chap with a very bald head. I think I could have managed those two alright, but the third man I was afraid of. He was a rascally, husky, powerful, dangerous looking chap. Well I got my idea. I got behind the little bald-headed fellow, and all at once I grabbed him by the collar, yanked him out of the seat, picked up the stool, and brandished it over his head and said, "Now, you fellows, if either of you stir a hand's breadth I'll crack his head like a ——— eggshell." I backed up with him to the door, his feet dragging along the floor, my eyes on the other two chaps, and the stool in my right hand. The thing was pretty sudden and they never spoke or moved. I suppose they could see I meant what I said, and I certainly did. When I got to the door I threw the little man back into the room, opened the door and you bet I ran like hell down those five flights of stairs."

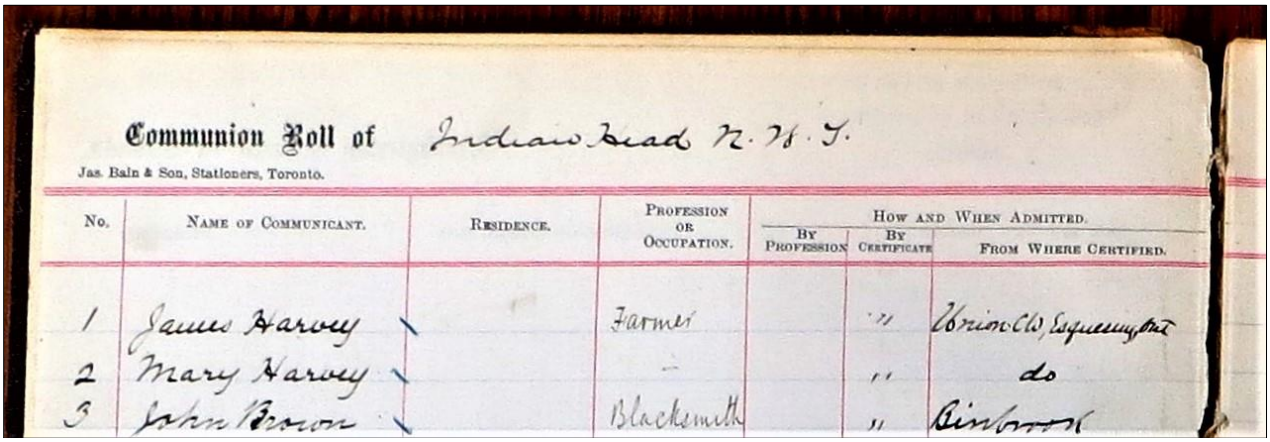
166 kb

1886

1886 – Rebellion Losses Claims and Report – Canadian Sessional Papers – check for details for 1886 later years

1886 – Major and Mrs. Bell registered with the Indian Head Presbyterian Church

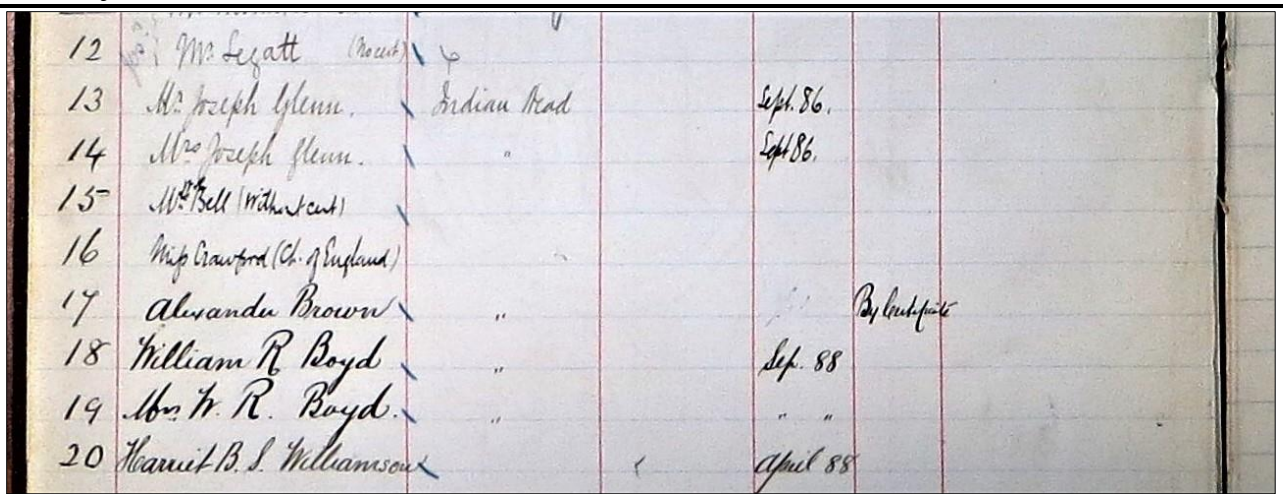
> "Hi Frank. As luck would have it, we did find a William Robert Bell and a Mrs. W.R. Bell in the Presbyterian Communion Rolls for late-1800s Indian Head (reference numbers A.381.XV.A.6147 and A.381.XV.A.6148). There is not all that much information recorded in the rolls but it does seem to confirm their participation. There are a couple of smaller notations that may be helpful, however.
>
> From **XV.A.6147**:
>
> - The entry for William Bell (no.15) has a note "without cert", which suggests he did not have a written document from a previous church (perhaps they took his word for it?).
> - There is no date or method of admission but based on the order of entries here, Bell likely joined between 1886 and 1888 (assuming the list was filled out chronologically).
> - Mrs. Bell shows up a couple pages later (entry no.33), and she is noted as having attended communion Dec. 1891, June 1894 and Oct. 1894. Details are also limited here. "
>
> (Source: 7 July 2014 e-mail from Madeleine McLuhan-Myers, Archivist, Saskatchewan Conference - United Church of Canada)



Communion Roll of Indian Head N.W.T.

Jas. Bain & Son, Stationers, Toronto.

No.	Name of Communicant.	Residence.	Profession or Occupation.	How and When Admitted. By Profession	By Certificate	From Where Certified.
1	James Harvey		Farmer		"	Union Ch, Esquimalt
2	Mary Harvey		—		"	do
3	John Brown		Blacksmith		"	Kinloss



12	Mrs Legatt (Mount)	"		
13	Mrs Joseph Glenn.	Indian Head	Sept. 86.	
14	Mrs Joseph Glenn.	"	Sept 86.	
15	Mrs Bell (Without Cert)			
16	Miss Crawford (Ch. of England)			
17	Alexander Brown	"		By Certificate
18	William R Boyd	"	Sept. 88	
19	Mrs W. R. Boyd.	"	" "	
20	Harriet B. S. Williamson		April 88	

W.R. Bell: entry # 15 – listed as "without certificate" (Source: Indian Head Presbyterian Church Communion Register: 1886-1902, United Church Archives: A.381.XV.A.6147) 150 & 179 kb

Note: While there are various references in this and later registers to Mrs. Bell, including her removal from the Communion Roll Register, there is only this one to "W.R. Bell" – perhaps this is really for Mrs. W.R. Bell, and the "Mrs." was inadvertently omitted.

1886 - agreement between Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company and R.B. Angus et al – check for details

(Source: Glenbow Archives: Series 4: M-6531-19: Legal Documents: 1887-1890)

1886 – no specific date – Major and Mrs. Bell attend the Presbyterian Church:

"Major and Mrs. Bell regularly attended Presbyterian Church coming to church in a buck board, and Mrs. Bell would always get her hat from a box before going into church." - source: Gordon Glenn, as told to him by his mother, Christina [Gordon] Glenn, who came to Indian Head in 1886 after her marriage to Joseph Glenn [Indian Head history, p. 400-401]

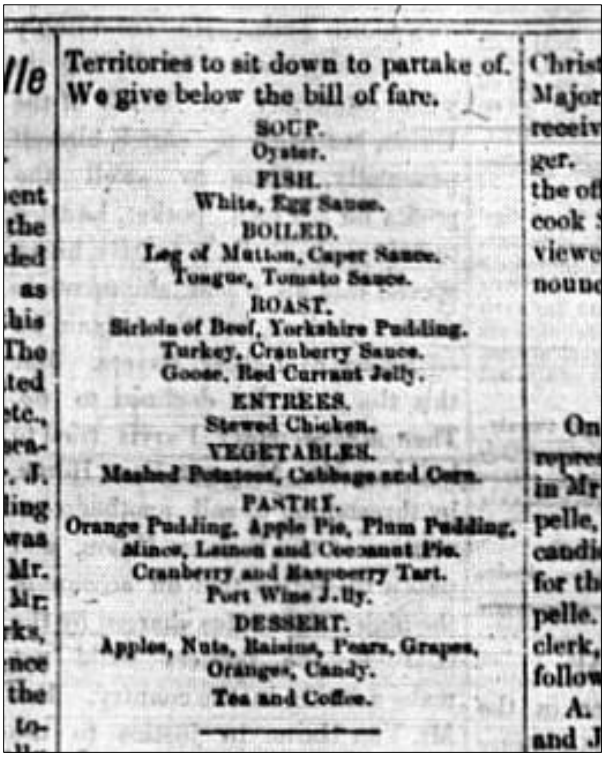
1886 – January – *The Nor'West Farmer and Miller* – p. 353 – Bell roller mill back in working order

"The Bell farm roller mill had to shut down on account of the boiler flues burning off. The mill is again in operation."

1886 – 1 January – NWT Gazette – Major Bell and James Harvey appointed Justices of the Peace

1886 – Jan. 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 1

[Menu of New Year's dinner at Leland Hotel and Queen's Hotel, Qu'Appelle, which may give some indication of the meals served to special guests at the Bell Farm.] – check for details



Territories to sit down to partake of. We give below the bill of fare.

SOUP.
Oyster.
FISH.
White, Egg Sauce.
BOILED.
Leg of Mutton, Caper Sauce.
Tongue, Tomato Sauce.
ROAST.
Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding.
Turkey, Cranberry Sauce.
Goose, Red Currant Jelly.
ENTREES.
Stewed Chicken.
VEGETABLES.
Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage and Corn.
PASTRY.
Orange Pudding, Apple Pie, Plum Pudding.
Mince, Lemon and Cocoanut Pie.
Cranberry and Raspberry Tart.
Port Wine Jelly.
DESSERT.
Apples, Nuts, Raisins, Pears, Grapes,
Oranges, Candy.
Tea and Coffee.

Leland Hotel menu

He wished them all a happy and prosperous new year. The following was the menu:

SOUP.
Oyster and Chicken.
FISH.
Baked White Fish.
COLD MEATS.
Beef, Goose, Ham, Sardines.
ENTREES.
Fricandeau of Beef,
Salmi de Perdrix Partridge,
Beefsteak and Oyster Pie.
BOILED.
Turkey, Oyster Sauce,
Buffalo Tongue, Champagne Sauce,
Leg of Mutton a la Bretonne,
and Ham.
ROASTS.
Tenderloin of Beef, Brown Gravy,
Haunch of Veal, Red Currant Jelly,
Pork, Apple Sauce,
Turkey, Cranberry Sauce,
Goose, Apple Sauce.
GAME.
Mallard and Teal Duck,
Partridge,
Prairie Chicken, Bread Sauce.
VEGETABLES.
Potatoes, Boiled and Mashed,
Turnips, Cabbage,
RELISHES.
Mixed Pickles, Worcester Sauce,
Tomato Catsup, Beets, French Capers.
PASTRY.
Mince Pie, Lemon Pie, Apple pie,
Strawberry Tart.
PUDDING,
English Plum Pudding, Port Wine Sauce,
Orange Meringe.
DESERT,
Oranges, Apples, Pears, Peaches, Grapes,
Bon-Bons, Nuts, Raisins.
CAKE,
Christmas Cake, Princess Cake, Jelly Cake.
Celery and Cheese.
Black Tea, Green Tea, Java Coffee.

Queen's Hotel menu

1886 – Jan. 9 – *Montreal Daily Herald and Commercial Gazette*, p. 1 – Major Bell, in Ottawa, comments on Rebellion aftermath

'**OTTAWA:** Major Bell, of Indian Head *N*.W.T., and one of the principals of the Bell farm, is in town. In a conversation today, he stated that the indications were that there would be not a repetition of the Indian troubles in the Battleford district next spring. The reason, in his opinion, was not so much the victories of the volunteers at Batoche, Fish Creek, and Cut Knife, as the fact that the Indians were practically disarmed. Of the possibilities of a rising among the Bloods and Blackfeet, in the western part of the Territories, he had little to say. He felt certain, however, that the mounted police were prepared effectively to deal with any trouble that might arise.

The Indians on the various reserves in Assiniboine, were very quiet just now and apparently not disposed to precipitate a conflict with the whites. . . . . ."

1886 – Jan. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Osment and Freeman are no more. It is now A.J. Osment & Everything Good and Cheap. Mr. Freeman has returned to Winnipeg."

"Why don't the Bell Farm put a whistle on the mill or elevator, so that there would be something to break the monotony of Indian Head existence."

"Quite a number of Bell farm horses were seized for nonpayment of taxes. Mr. Railton, the collector, seized the horses which were in use at the time taking them from the water tanks and from hauling straw, and, at least, for the day, embarrassing the work. The horses are now in livery stable under expense."

1886 – Jan. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress. P. 6*

Qu'Appelle: "A number of the Bell Farm teams passed through here on Tuesday with flour for the Indian reserves northwest of here."

1886 – Jan. 21 – *Kingston Daily British Whig*, p. 2 – Bell Farm rebellion losses claim

"The Bell Farming Company's claim against the Government for transport services during the recent rebellion amounted to $34,000 [sic]."

1886 – Jan. 28 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "'Lochinvar' in the *Progress* jumps with both feet on the burley secretary of the Bell farm, and believes the Bell farm will have to borrow money to pay their taxes. Collector Railton will probably bring some news to the council after March the 4th, and mayhap the council will foot Peter Garratt's livery bill, and perhaps more. Those who laugh last laugh best."

1886 – Jan. 28 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 1 – Payment of Bell Farm's Rebellion Losses Claims

"**CANADIAN. – Payment of Bell Farm Transport Claims – Northwest Claims –** The total amount of the claim of the Bell Farming Company against the Government for transport services during the recent rebellion was about $34,000 (sic). This does not, however, include the claims of Major Bell, individually, nor the claims of Bell & Lewis and other firms, in which that gentleman was interested. All the claims of the Bell Company, excepting $6,000, have been paid."

1886 – Jan. 29 – *The Hope Pioneer, North Dakota,* p. 2 - Bell Farm rebellion losses claim

"**Foreign Gossip**. The Bell Farming company, near Qu'Appelle, has a claim of $34,000 against the dominion government for transport services during the Riel rebellion."

1886 – Jan. 30 – *Edmonton Bulletin,* p. 1 – Rebellion Claims by Bell Farm paid

> "The Bell farm claims for military transport last spring have been paid. The amount was about $340,000 (sic). This does not include Major Bell's private claim which is also a large amount." – [check dollar amount – appears to have an extra "0"]

1886 – Jan. 30 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 1 - Rebellion Claims by Bell Farm paid

> "The total amount of the claim of the Bell farming company against the Government for transport services during the recent rebellion was about $34,000 (sic) this does not however include claims of Major Bell individually nor claims of Bell and Lewis and other firms in which that gentleman was interested. All claims of the Bell company except $6,000 have been paid." [Bell and Lewis appears to be a different "Bell" – not Major W.R. Bell.]

1886 – Feb. 1 – *Saskatchewan Herald,* Battleford, p. 2 – Bell Farm rebellion losses claim

> "The celebrated claim of the Bell Farming Company for transport during the rebellion has been paid. It amounts to $34,000 (sic), but that does not include Major Bell's private claim, which is considerably larger."

1886 – Feb. 3 – *Montreal Gazette:* (Toronto news) – death of T.C. Elwood, an original Bell Farm investor, and brother of Mrs. Katherine Bell

> "The Board of Trade adjourned today out of respect to the memory of T.C. Elwood, formerly superintendent of the Dominion Telegraph Co., who died this morning near Prescott."

1886 – Feb. 4 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 1 – Bell Farm rebellion losses claim of the Bell Farming Company

> "**NORH-WEST CLAIMS.** The total amount of the claim of the Bell Farming Company against the Government, for transport services during the recent rebellion, was about $34,000 (sic). This does not, however, include the claims of Major Bell, individually, nor the claims of Bell & Lewis and other firms, in which that gentleman was interested. All the claims of the Bell Company, excepting $5,000 [sic] , have been paid."

1886 – Feb. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> Indian Head. "The total amount of the claim of the Bell Farming Company against the Government for transport services during the recent rebellion was about $34,000 (sic) This does not, however, include the claims of Major Bell, individually, nor the claims of Bell and Lewis and other firms in which that gentleman was interested. All the claims of the Bell Company, excepting $6,000, have been paid."

1886 – Feb . 9 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 4 – Major and Mrs. Bell in Winnipeg

> "CITY AND PROVINCE - . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, are at the Queen's."

1886 – Feb. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> "WR Allan and Major and Mrs. Bell arrived per Wednesday's train."

"Major Bell brought part of the $38,000 with him and will on Saturday pay all hands. This will end an awful lot of growling and spoil the favourite topic of some of our wise men that the Bell Farm 'bubble' would soon burst. 'Joe Beef,' 'Viator' and 'Lochinvar' can try their hands at something besides Bell Farm tirades." [*Viator is the Abernathy correspondent; Joe Beef might be too.*]

"Put a whistle on the mill, Major."

1886 – Feb. 18 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Put a whistle on the mill, Major."

"All the Bell farm, mill and elevator employees were paid in full on Saturday."

1886 – Feb. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 - Letter by "Junius" , written Feb. 12, 1886 and published Feb. 19 –- about the Bell Farm monopoly , tax payment to the RM of Indian Head, and squatters. [FRANK: a very verbose writer.]

Progress - Feb 19, 1886 Browse
vspapers »

Correspondence,

(Our columns are open to all provided the subject matter is of public interest, and proper language is used, but in no case do we hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.)

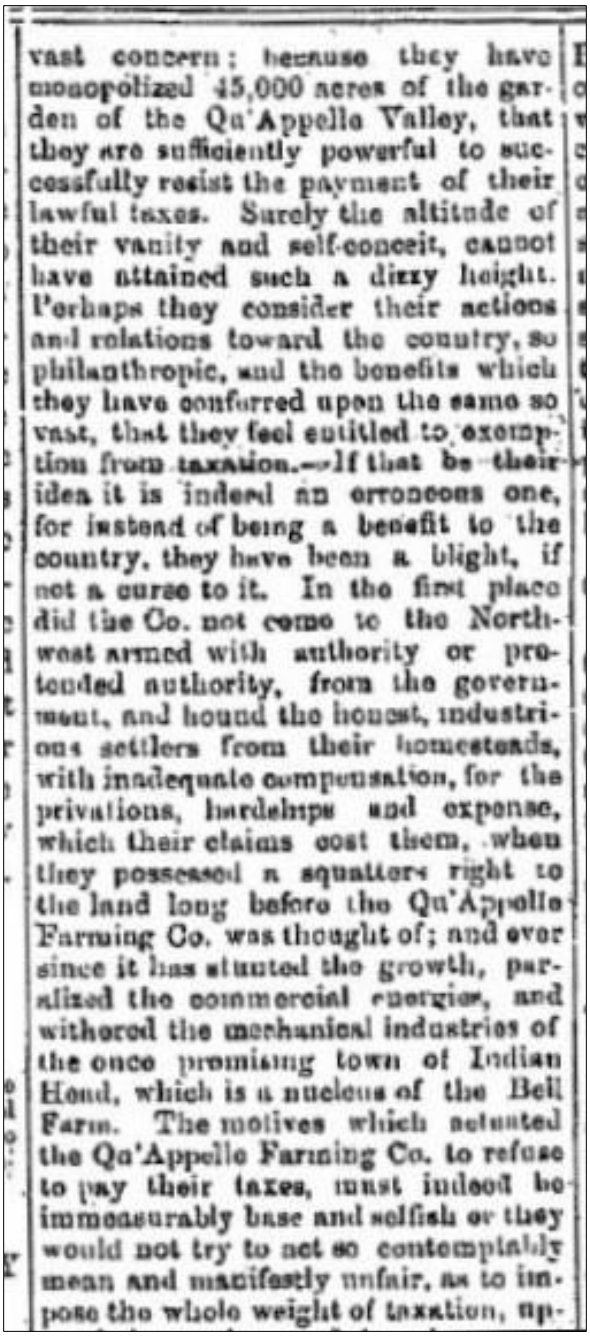
ARE WE TO BE CRUSHED BY MONOPOLY?

To the Editor.—

Insubordination is ever a powerful element, in the wonderful combination, or association of contrasted, and antagonistic qualities, which constitutes humanity. And it is absolutely necessary that such an element should exist in that relation, in order that humanity should preserve its dignity and lightness of character, for were it entirely wanting humanity would be degraded to unambitious, grovelling serfdom, aye more debased and contemptable than the yelping, shrinking, abused cur which licks the hand that chastises it. Yet while it must be admitted that such an element should exist in order that humanity be more exalted than the brute creation, it is no less evident that it should be subject to rigorous control, for were it not kept in subjection, it would develope itself into the worst forms of tyranny and oppression. It is necessary that the wilful child should be controlled in order that he may grow up to be a useful and respected member of society, otherwise he would be offensively self-willed, obstinate and unyielding in his intercourse with his fellows in after life—

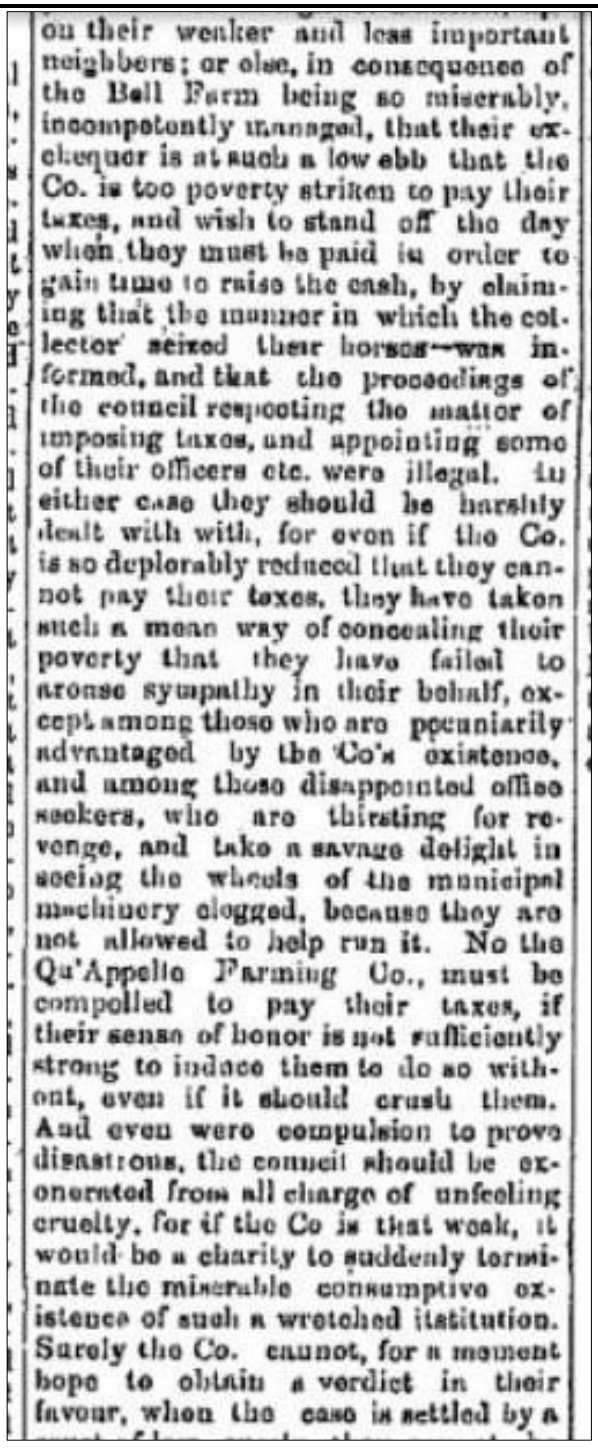
chafing under all wholesome restraint, and having unutterable contempt and disgust alike for all moral and physical laws of control. The common soldier is as essential to the composition of an army as the general, for an army could not entirely be composed of generals, for they would have nothing to command, no power or energy to direct in one grand united effort, consequently nothing could be accomplished. And it is equally absurd that the army should wholly consist of common soldiers, for then there would be none to command, none to direct its united power and energy, hence all would be in wild confussion and insubordination. It is necessary that governments and councils should exist in order that laws may be framed for the guidance and control of the people, and that such bodies be invested with power to enforce those laws with a view to establishing and maintaining peace, order and tranquility, otherwise there would be no order, no control, no guidance, no restraint, but all would be priviliged to follow unbridled the dictates of their individual, unrestrained, inordinate instincts and desires, hence anarchy and chaos would reign and the torrent of crime and blood-shed would roll on unchecked. If this be unsophisticated reasoning, what right have the Qu'-Appelle Farming Co. to trample with impunity upon constitutional rights and priviliges; to contemptuously ignore the authority of civil legislation by refusing to pay their just and lawful taxes? By what authority or right do they seek to thrust the whole burden of taxation upon the shoulders of the small farmer? Is the Co. vain enough to think, because they are a

Part 1 of 5: 370 kb Part 2 of 5: 117 kb



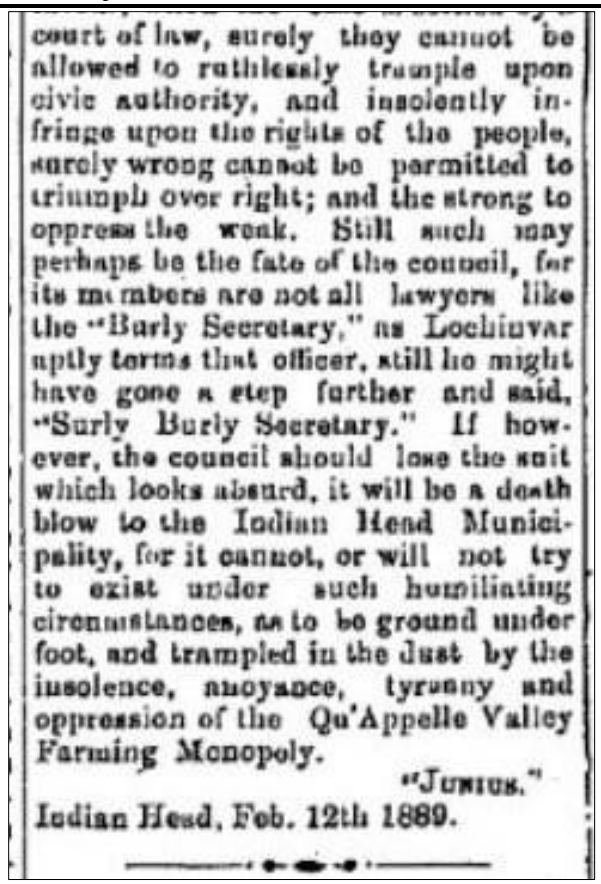
vast concern; because they have monopolized 45,000 acres of the garden of the Qu'Appelle Valley, that they are sufficiently powerful to successfully resist the payment of their lawful taxes. Surely the altitude of their vanity and self-conceit, cannot have attained such a dizzy height. Perhaps they consider their actions and relations toward the country, so philanthropic, and the benefits which they have conferred upon the same so vast, that they feel entitled to exemption from taxation.—If that be their idea it is indeed an erroneous one, for instead of being a benefit to the country, they have been a blight, if not a curse to it. In the first place did the Co. not come to the Northwest armed with authority or pretended authority, from the government, and hound the honest, industrious settlers from their homesteads, with inadequate compensation, for the privations, hardships and expense, which their claims cost them, when they possessed a squatters right to the land long before the Qu'Appelle Farming Co. was thought of; and ever since it has stunted the growth, paralized the commercial energies, and withered the mechanical industries of the once promising town of Indian Head, which is a nucleus of the Bell Farm. The motives which actuated the Qu'Appelle Farming Co. to refuse to pay their taxes, must indeed be immeasurably base and selfish or they would not try to act so contemptably mean and manifestly unfair, as to impose the whole weight of taxation, up-

Part 3 of 5: 100 kb



on their weaker and less important neighbors; or else, in consequence of the Bell Farm being so miserably, incompetently managed, that their exchequer is at such a low ebb that the Co. is too poverty stricken to pay their taxes, and wish to stand off the day when they must be paid in order to gain time to raise the cash, by claiming that the manner in which the collector seized their horses—was informed, and that the proceedings of the council respecting the matter of imposing taxes, and appointing some of their officers etc. were illegal. In either case they should be harshly dealt with with, for even if the Co. is so deplorably reduced that they cannot pay their taxes, they have taken such a mean way of concealing their poverty that they have failed to arouse sympathy in their behalf, except among those who are pecuniarily advantaged by the Co's existence, and among those disappointed office seekers, who are thirsting for revenge, and take a savage delight in seeing the wheels of the municipal machinery clogged, because they are not allowed to help run it. No the Qu'Appelle Farming Co., must be compelled to pay their taxes, if their sense of honor is not sufficiently strong to induce them to do so without, even if it should crush them. And even were compulsion to prove disastrous, the council should be exonerated from all charge of unfeeling cruelty, for if the Co is that weak, it would be a charity to suddenly terminate the miserable consumptive existence of such a wretched institution. Surely the Co. cannot, for a moment hope to obtain a verdict in their favour, when the case is settled by a

Part 4 of 5: 117 kb



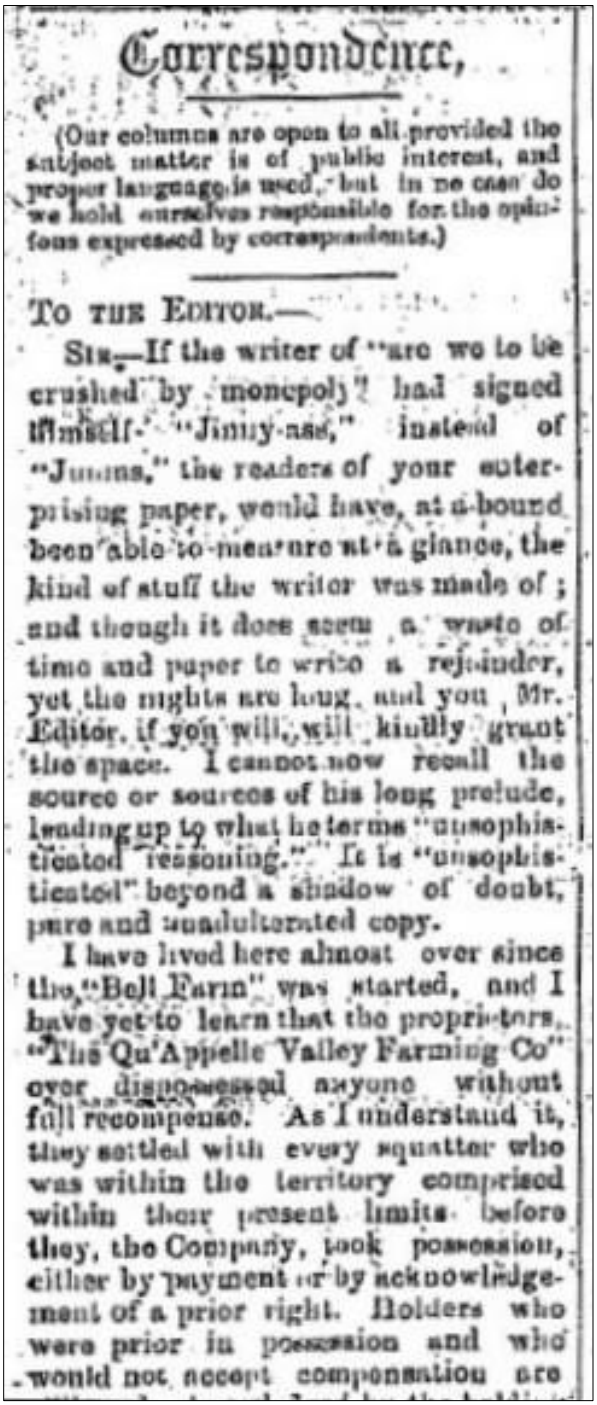
court of law, surely they cannot be allowed to ruthlessly trample upon civic authority, and insolently infringe upon the rights of the people, surely wrong cannot be permitted to triumph over right; and the strong to oppress the weak. Still such may perhaps be the fate of the council, for its members are not all lawyers like the "Burly Secretary," as Lochinvar aptly terms that officer, still he might have gone a step further and said, "Surly Burly Secretary." If however, the council should lose the suit which looks absurd, it will be a death blow to the Indian Head Municipality, for it cannot, or will not try to exist under such humiliating circumstances, as to be ground under foot, and trampled in the dust by the insolence, annoyance, tyranny and oppression of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Monopoly.

"JUNIUS."

Indian Head, Feb. 12th 1889.

Part 5 of 5: 82 kb [Note: "1889" date should be 1886]

1886 – Feb. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 6 – Rebuttal to the "Junius" Letter of Feb. 12, 1886, published Feb. 19 – includes squatters and tax payment to the Rural Municipality of Indian Head. [This letter is also somewhat verbose, though not as bad as the previous one written by "Junius".]



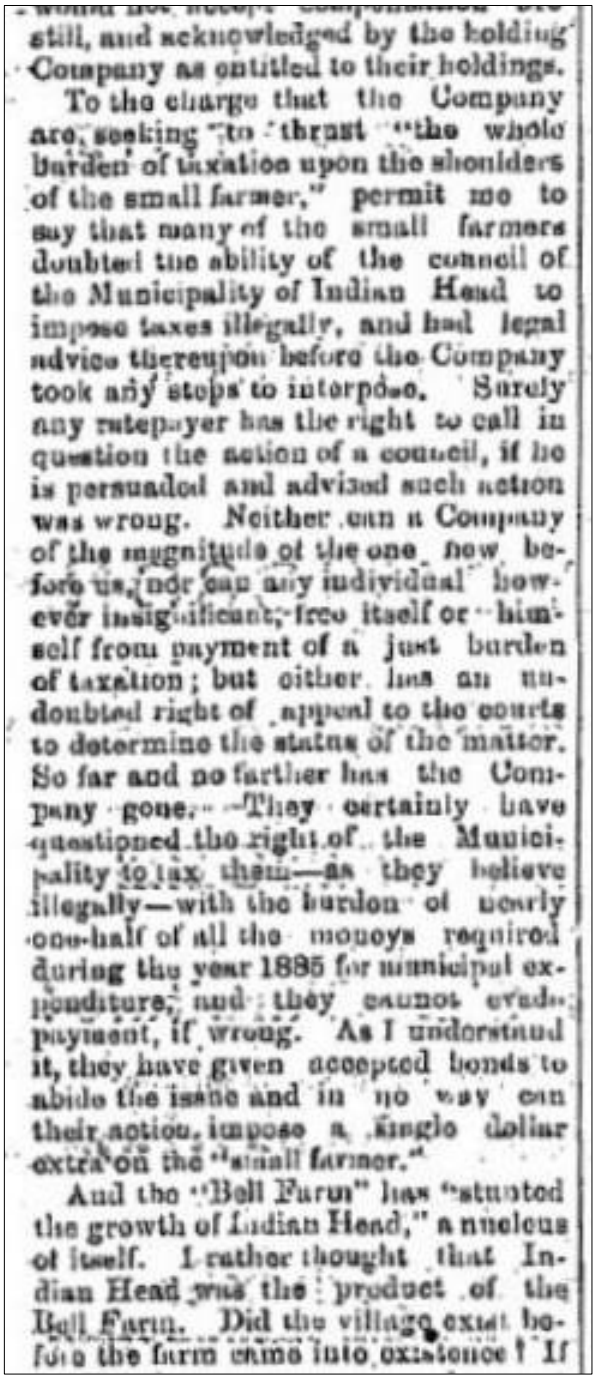
Correspondence.

(Our columns are open to all provided the subject matter is of public interest, and proper language is used, but in no case do we hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.)

To the Editor.—

Sir,—If the writer of "are we to be crushed by moncpoly" had signed himself "Jinny-nas," instead of "Jumus," the readers of your enterprising paper, would have, at a bound been able to measure at a glance, the kind of stuff the writer was made of; and though it does seem a waste of time and paper to write a rejoinder, yet the nights are long, and you, Mr. Editor, if you will, will kindly grant the space. I cannot now recall the source or sources of his long prelude, leading up to what he terms "unsophisticated reasoning." It is "unsophisticated" beyond a shadow of doubt, pure and unadulterated copy.

I have lived here almost ever since the "Bell Farm" was started, and I have yet to learn that the proprietors, "The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co" ever dispossessed anyone without full recompense. As I understand it, they settled with every squatter who was within the territory comprised within their present limits before they, the Company, took possession, either by payment or by acknowledgement of a prior right. Holders who were prior in possession and who would not accept compensation are



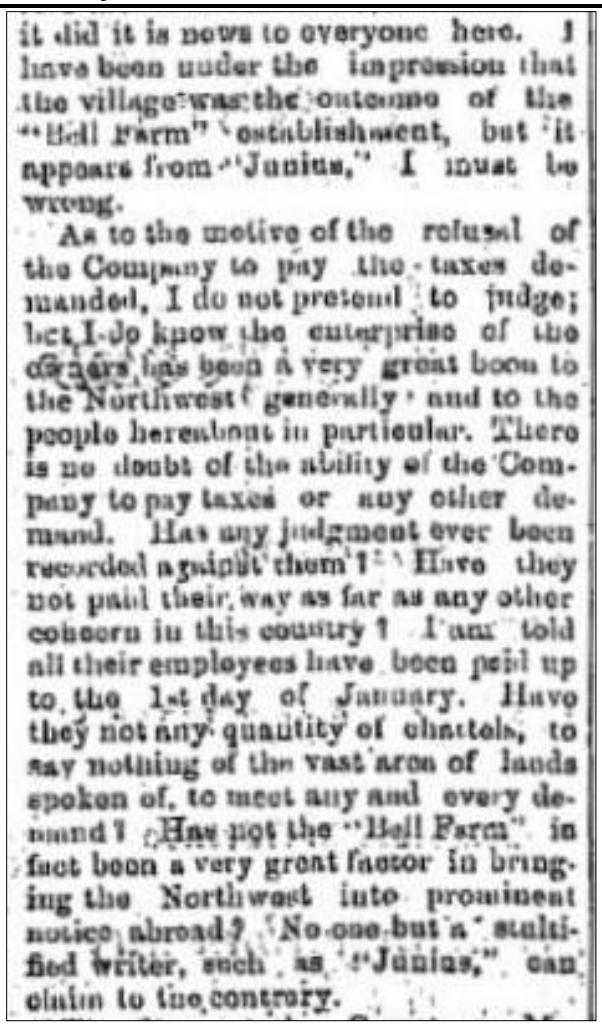
still, and acknowledged by the holding Company as entitled to their holdings.

To the charge that the Company are, seeking "to thrust "the whole burden of taxation upon the shoulders of the small farmer," permit me to say that many of the small farmers doubted the ability of the council of the Municipality of Indian Head to impose taxes illegally, and had legal advice thereupon before the Company took any steps to interpose. Surely any ratepayer has the right to call in question the action of a council, if he is persuaded and advised such action was wrong. Neither can a Company of the magnitude of the one now before us, nor can any individual however insignificant, free itself or himself from payment of a just burden of taxation; but either has an undoubted right of appeal to the courts to determine the status of the matter. So far and no farther has the Company gone. They certainly have questioned the right of the Municipality to tax them—as they believe illegally—with the burden of nearly one-half of all the moneys required during the year 1885 for municipal expenditure, and they cannot evade payment, if wrong. As I understand it, they have given accepted bonds to abide the issue and in no way can their action impose a single dollar extra on the "small farmer."

And the "Bell Farm" has "stunted the growth of Indian Head," a nucleus of itself. I rather thought that Indian Head was the product of the Bell Farm. Did the village exist before the farm came into existence? If

Part 1 94 kb

Part 2 98 kb



it did it is news to everyone here. I have been under the impression that the village was the outcome of the "Bell Farm" establishment, but it appears from "Junius," I must be wrong.

As to the motive of the refusal of the Company to pay the taxes demanded, I do not pretend to judge; but I do know the enterprise of the owners has been a very great boon to the Northwest generally and to the people hereabout in particular. There is no doubt of the ability of the Company to pay taxes or any other demand. Has any judgment ever been recorded against them? Have they not paid their way as far as any other concern in this country? I am told all their employees have been paid up to the 1st day of January. Have they not any quantity of chattels, to say nothing of the vast area of lands spoken of, to meet any and every demand? Has not the "Bell Farm" in fact been a very great factor in bringing the Northwest into prominent notice abroad? No one but a stultified writer, such as "Junius," can claim to the contrary.

The fling at the Secretary, Mr. Editor, must have taxed the wit of "Junius" to an appalling degree. The "Burly Secretary" is looked upon about here as a pretty good sort, and if his hand shall in any way contribute to the extinguishment of the Municipality of Indian Head, for the next few years at least, he will have earned the thanks of the "small farmers," though he incur the displeasure of "Jimmy-ass," and the anathemas of the men who now reap the pickings incidental to all who feast at the municipal crib.

Yours, etc.,
INDIAN HEAD.

Feb. 10, 1886.

Part 3 81 kb Part 4 66 kb

1886 – Feb. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress, p. 6*

[Letter to the Editor re Bell Farm, photocopied.] – check for details

"On Saturday last a matched game of curling was played at the Qu'Appelle rink between the curlers of Indian Head and this place, resulting in favor of our boys by a score of 20 to 7. The following were the players: H.B. Eberts, skip; Major Bell, R. Crawford and ___ Allan, Indian Head . . . . A return game will be played shortly."

1886 – Feb. 26 – Application to establish The Bell Farming Company (Ltd)

Directors include: Bell, Boyle, MacArthur, Allen, Howard, Rokeby, and Eberts, headquarters in Winnipeg. (Source: Published in the Canada Gazette for 13 March 1886, p. 1319) http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?image_id_nbr=106042&document_id_nbr=4450&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03)

1886 – Feb. 26 – Preliminary Report on the Commission on War Claims – Appendix 4

Source: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2016/bcp-pco/Z1-1885-1-eng.pdf – check for details

Multiple references of Major Bell and some of his business associates on their activities during the North-West Rebellion of 1885

1886 – Feb. 26 – Bell Farm submits Rebellion Losses Claim to Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior

This four page document outlines the expenses incurred by the Bell Farm during the North West Rebellion of 1885, for which the Company is seeking compensation in the amount of $ 57,429.01. Source: https://archive.org/details/cihm_12257/mode/2up/search/qu'appelle+valley+farming+company

Additional extensive details relating to the War Claims Commission can be seen for the following entry: 1885 – Oct. 14 – Rebellion Claims Commission – Testimony of Major Bell

At the end of its report (p. 274) , the Commission declared that Major Bell was paid more than he was entitled to, and was asked to refund $1,890.45.

TO THE

HONORABLE THOMAS WHITE,

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

The Memorial *of THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY FARMING COMPANY, L'd.*

represented by WILLIAM LEWIS BOYLE, the President, and HERMANN JOSEPH EBERTS, the Secretary-Treasurer thereof,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

1. That your Memorialists are the proprietors of what is commonly known as the BELL FARM, in the North West Territories.

2. That your Memorialists have carried on Farming in the said Territories on a very extensive scale, and had invested in their operations up to the Spring of 1885 over half a million of dollars.

3. That your Memorialists, during the Season of 1884, caused to be prepared for cropping the following Spring, upwards of Eight Thousand Acres of Land, in wheat chiefly, at a cost of $19,727.94, an average per acre of $2 37.

4. That all preparations had been made during the Winter in providing the necessary Seed, and procuring at a large outlay the additional implements necessary to enable your Memorialists to commence operations so soon as the season had sufficiently advanced, and seed the entire area so prepared.

5. That on the breaking out of the Rebellion in the North West, the greater part of the motive force of your Memorialists, in Horses, Wagons and Men, were drawn off by the General in Command of the Forces, to do duty in assisting the movement of troops to the front.

6. That owing to the crippled condition in which your Memorialists were left through such withdrawal, the management were able to seed, during the seeding season, a small portion only, of the lands so made ready, and, with every exertion, were able to cultivate properly only 1000 acres of their lands, while the additional implements purchased and the greater portion of their large stock on hand were forced to remain unused.

7. In consequence of such non use the area of 7,300 acres, or so much thereof as could be overtaken, had again to be plowed and harrowed for the coming year.

8. Your Memorialists, therefore, not only lost the cost of the preparations of the previous year, and the profits naturally arising from its crop, but owing to the prolongation of hostilities and continued absence of their staff, were unable during the season just passed to till the quantity of land which under other circumstances they would have done, in readiness for the year 1886.

9. The Bell Farm has become widely known as a very important factor in the development of the North-West, and the effect of so many of their fields going to waste in 1885—considered by your Memorialists and the public generally as the crucial year of its existence—was not only a direct loss to your Memorialists, but jeopardized the credit of the Company to an alarming degree, compelling them to strain their resources to the utmost to pass through what otherwise would have proven a profitable season.

10. Your Memorialists also respectfully state that the assistance rendered throughout the crisis in the North-West by the staff and material of the Bell Farm, more notably at the commencement of the troubles, was loyal and of incalculable service to the General in Command, enabling him to move with much greater rapidity than otherwise—without such a staff to draw upon—he could have done.

11. Your Memorialists feel, and they believe justly, that under these circumstances their claim to compensation from the Government for the losses they have sustained should be favorably entertained.

12. It may be urged at first sight that as a partial set off to these losses may be placed the sums received by your Memorialists in compensation for the work done in the transport service, but your Memorialists would point out that these earnings were minimized—(*a*) by the large sum paid their men in extra wages; (*b*) the heavy loss to their live stock through horses killed, maimed and rendered useless through casualties and exposure, and the extra wear and tear of wagons and harness; (*c*) the very great reductions made by the Commissioners on War Claims; (*d*) the serious straits in which the Company were placed through loss of credit; (*e*) the interest paid on capital not fully employed, and the entire loss of dividend and consequent disappointment of shareholders; (*f*) the very serious curtailment of their operations for the season of 1886, and general derangement of well settled plans; (*g*) the necessarily increased expenditure consequent on the attempt to overtake as far as possible the ground lost the preceding year; and (*h*) lastly the large number of acres which through non-cultivation have returned to their natural state.

13. Your Memorialists respectfully present in a Schedule hereunto affixed a fair representation of the direct losses incurred by them, as aforesaid, in addition to those set forth in the preceding paragraph.

And your Memorialists respectfully submit,—

(*a*) That after deducting from the cost of preparing the gross acreage the proportion for the acreage employed, viz.: $2,377, they are entitled to compensation for the balance, that is to say, to $17,350.94, and interest thereon for one year at the rate most favorable in the North-West, eight per cent, $1,388.07.

(*b*) That your Memorialists are entitled to compensation for the fair measure of net loss sustained through non-cultivation of their lands, the particulars of which are fully set forth in the said Schedule, amounting to $38,690, making a total claim of $57,429.01.

(*c*) Your Memorialists therefore respectfully ask your consideration thereto and pray for the payment of the claim presented.

And your Memorialists, &c.

(*Signed*)—W. LEWIS BOYLE,
President,
The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., Limited.

H. J. EBERTS,
Secretary-Treasurer,
The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., Limited.

(*Dated*)—WINNIPEG, MANITOBA,
February 26th, 1886.

The foregoing is the Memorial marked B referred to in the declaration of W. R. Bell, made before me, this 2nd day of March, 1886.

(*Signed*)—JAMES HARVEY, J.P.

The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited.

BELL FARM OFFICE.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., Limited, for damages and loss caused by the withdrawal of their force from the Bell Farm on the 29th of March, 1885, by the General of the Forces. The Company being thereby prevented from carrying on their active operations as Farmers.

Amount actually expended in preparing 8,300 acres of land on the Bell Farm in 1884 for cropping in the Spring of 1885 . . .	$19,727 94	
Less the proportion of this amount on 1,000 acres cropped in 1885	2,377 00	
Net loss in preparation		$17,350 94
Interest on this sum for one year		1,388 07
Value of Crop off 7,300 acres at an average of 18 bushels 131,400 bushels at 60 cents	78,840 00	
Deduct cost of seed per acre $1 50		
" " seeding do. 0 25		
" " harrowing do. 0 50		
" " reaping do. 1 50		
" " stacking do. 0 50		
" " Threshing and Delivering do. 0 75		
" " wear and tear do. 0 50		
" " 7,300 acres, at $5 50	40,150 00	
Net loss through non-use of land		38,690 00
Amount of Claim		$57,429 01

WINNIPEG, *February 26th, 1886.*

In the matter of claim made by the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., Limited, for damages and loss caused by the withdrawal of their force from the Bell Farm, on the 29th March, 1885, by the General in Command of Her Majesty's Forces.

I, WILLIAM ROBERT BELL, of the Municipality of Indian Head, in the North-West Territories, Farmer, DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE:

That I am the General Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., Limited, and as such have direct charge over and supervision of the Bell Farm, the property of the said Company;

That the statements made in the first nine paragraphs of the Memorial hereunto attached and marked B are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief;

That the Statement of Claim hereunto annexed and marked A contains, I verily believe, a fair statement of the direct loss to the said Company as set forth in the said Memorial and Statement;

That the items in the said Statement of Claim marked A are, I verily believe, truly represented therein;

And I make this Solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of an Act passed in the thirty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the suppression of extra judicial and voluntary oaths."

Taken and declared before me at Indian Head, in the District of Assiniboia, this second day of March, A. D. 1886.

(Sgd.) JAMES HARVEY,
J. P., N. W. T.

(Signed.)
W. R. BELL.

In the matter of claim made by the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company for damages and loss caused by the withdrawal of their force from the Bell Farm on the 29th of March, 1885, by the General of the Forces.

I, HERMANN JOSEPH EBERTS, of the Village of Indian Head, in the Provisional District of Assiniboia, North-West Territories, Accountant, DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE:

That I am the Secretary-Treasurer of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Limited, and as such have charge of the books of the said Company, including those kept at the Bell Farm.

That the item of $19,727.94, mentioned in the Statement of Claim hereunto annexed and marked A, is taken from the books of the said Company, kept at the Bell Farm, and I verily believe is the true amount of the actual cost of preparation of the lands of the said Company in 1884, for cropping in the Spring of 1885, as arrived at from the labor returns daily made, and as distinguished from all other charges.

And I make this Solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Act passed in the thirty-seventh year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the suppression of voluntary and extra judicial oaths."

Declared before me at the Village of Indian Head, in the (County of) District of Assiniboia, North West Territories, this second day of March, A. D. 1886.

(Signed,) JAMES HARVEY,
Justice of the Peace, N. W. T.

(Signed,)
H. J. EBERTS.

1886 – March 8 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 2, col. 3

[Within a long political tirade is the following:]

"In the election for the Northwest Council in 1883, when his opponent was Major Bell, of Indian Head, Mr. Jackson's whole campaign stock-in trade was composed of bitter attacks" on Lt. Gov Dewdney.

1886 – March 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Major Bell has gone to St. Paul."

"Lieut Governor Dewdney and Lady were guests of Mrs. Major Bell on Monday."

"Put the whistle on the mill Major."

1886 – March 12 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 - A second letter written by "Junius" March 3, 1886, published March 12, relating to monopoly, taxation and squatters. [Another verbose letter.]

e Qu'Appelle Progress - Mar 12, 1886 Bro
rowse all newspapers »

Correspondence.

(Our columns are open to all provided the subject matter is of public interest, and proper language is used, but in no case do we hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.)

TO THE EDITOR.—

SIR: If I can again prevail, or rather, perhaps, impose upon your kindness, by having a considerable amount of your truly valuable paper placed at my disposal you will receive my hearty and well merited thanks. The reply to "Are we to be crushed by monopoly" written by the champion of the "Bell Farm" who signed himself "Indian Head" (but who with more appropriateness and we believe truthfulness might have assumed the name "Bell Farm," since he voices the statements of that corporation, on the question before us, rather than those of the town from which he derives his name) was no doubt intended to be an extinguisher. But O! how vain the hope, for Junius unscathed by the explosion of such an impotent squib of childlike sarcasm and repartee, has "bobbed" up as serenely as ever, and is as zealous in espousing and defending the cause of freedom and justice as when last heard from. The sum and substance of the reply is a vindictive and deplorably imbecile attempt to make derision of the name of writer of the article to which he is replying—a foolish childlike play upon words quite beneath the dignity of a writer possessed of average resourse and brain power—and a desperate, though miserably, unsuccessful effort to refute the charges, made against the "Bell Farm" by Junius. The odd grimaces and facial distortion to which the stupenduous effort of mutilating and twisting the word Junius into Jinny-ass, evidently subjected him, must have been most amusing to witness, for they would doubtless have vied, if not eclipsed, the most brilliant feats in "face making" of Barnum's best trained ape. The effort gives us a clear insight to the character of Mr. Indian Head and shows it to be decked with sparkling wit and brilliant genius! It was a happy thought Mr. Editor when the would be (but I'm afraid never will be) satirist and punster, Mr. Indian Head, conceived with overstretched imagination, that the words "Junius" and "Jenny-ass" possessed a similarity of sound, for it furnished his meager mind with material to write two thirds, of the one column feeble offspring of his chaotic brain. Mr. Indian Head says he has "lived around Indian Head almost ever since the Bell Farm was started and yet he never knew that the proprietors of the

Part 1 126 kb

Part 2 127 kb

Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. ever dispossessed any one without full compensation, or disputed the right to their holdings, any within their limits, who would not accept recompense." I think Mr. Indian Head must be hard of hearing, or he would certainly have heard the din of wordy strife and warfare that raged between the manager of the Bell Farm, and the squatters, for three or four years. The last campaign I believe was fought as late as the summer of 1885. The land which now comprises the "Bell Farm" was taken possession of before the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. was in existence. The squatters settled, on the land in good faith, for they were promised, by the Government officials, that as soon as the land was surveyed, they would be allowed to obtain entries, for their homesteads. In the meantime the Co. stipulated with the Government for this very land, which was to be assigned to them, on consideration that certain conditions would be fulfilled, knowing as they must have known, that the land was already occupied by squatters, "squatter's right," the best claim they could have to the land, prior to its being surveyed, would be respected. However the manager of the Bell Farm, emboldened, by Government protection

Part 3 119 kb

insolently, and arrogantly demanded them to forfeit all claim to their homesteads and quit his vast "domain" with whatever compensation he might choose to grant them. Thus you see the squatters found themselves in that helpless position of being compelled to accept whatever was offered to them, no matter how insufficient the amount, or face the bitter alternative of incurring the risk of being forced to abandon their claims, without remuneration, or occupying them, with the forlorn hope of some time obtaining a title to them—an intolerable state of suspense and uncertainty, which completely killed all energy within them, for there is no encouragement, for a man to work when there is a grave doubt that he will ever be allowed to reap the benefit of his labor. The squatters made repeated appeals to the Government for protection, against the ruthless "usur-

Part 4 100 kb

per" of their homes, but the small weak voice of entreaty was never heeded, and the poor abused squatters in despair surrendered one after another, their claims for what they could get for them, until there are I believe, only about three or four left, and some of these I am informed have not, as yet succeeded in getting entries for their claims, and the Bell Farm still contests their rights to them. In trying to refute the charge that "the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. are seeking to thrust the whole burden of taxation on the shoulders of the small farmers," proves most clearly that the charge is a just one for he is honest enough to acknowledge, that the Co.'s object in going to law is to avoid paying their taxes while the "small farmers" have all had the manhood to come forward and pay their taxes. Then have they not (the small farmers) as yet had to "shoulder the whole burden of taxation." Have they not had to defray unassisted by the "Bell Farm" the whole municipal expense for 1885? Most decidedly they have. The Co.'s attempt to shirk their just proportion of the municipal tax, is to say the least of it a contemptably mean and selfish action, and will result, we hope, in their not only being compelled to pay their taxes, but will involve the payment of additional cost, which will be a just reward of such unutterable

Part 5 129 kb

baseness. Mr. Indian Head admits that it is impossible to avoid the payment of a just tax, implying (if they, the Co., hopes to be exempt from taxation by a court of law) that the imposition, of a municipal tax, upon them by the Indian Head council is unjust, and unlawful as well, as must be inferred from his allusion to the fact that some of the small farmers obtained legal advice as to whether they could lawfully be compelled to pay their taxes in case they refused. Now upon what grounds can the imposition of taxes, upon the Bell farm be considered unjust? Were not the officers of that institution, first and foremost, in bringing about the establishment of the Indian Head municipality, with a view to having a bonus of $5,000 granted by the municipality towards the erection of a flowering mill? And will not the assesment rolls show, that the assesment of their lands was made, on a common basis with the other lands of the municipality, of a like quality; and similarly situated? Their proportion of the tax may to them seem unfairly large, still when we reflect that the sum is augmented by several hundreds of statute labor which the council commuted, at the rate of $2.00 per day for every unperformed day of statute labor, whereas they might have commuted it at $1.00 per day, I

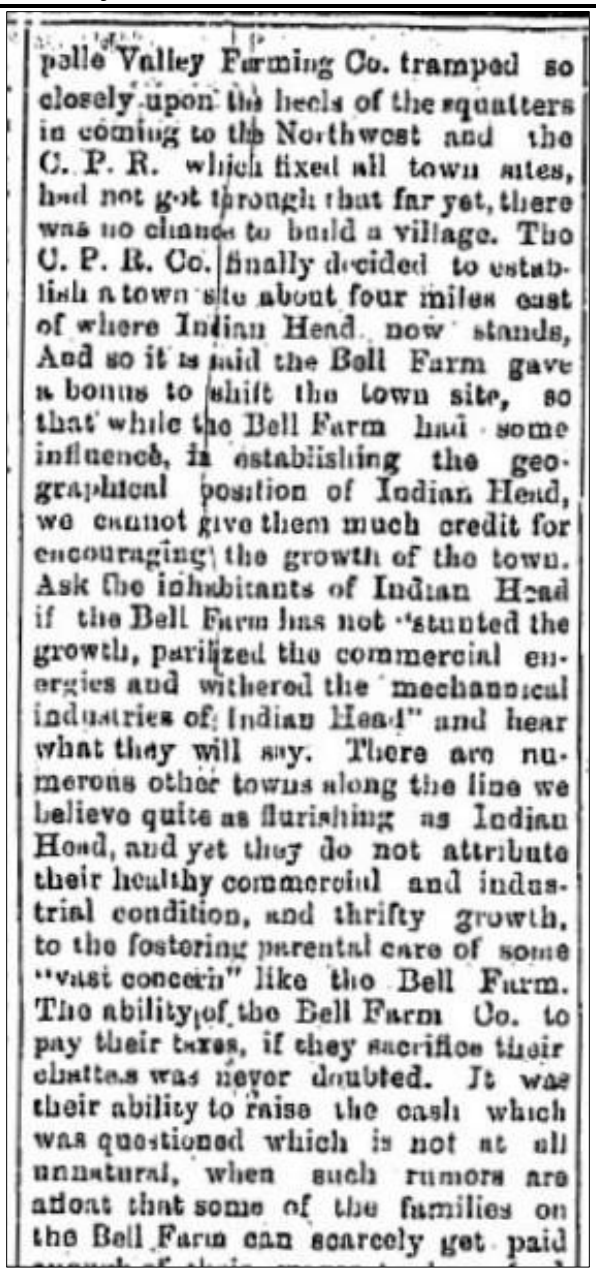
Part 6 127 kb

think the Co. has no cause to complain of injustice. The Co. however feeling bitterly disappointed at not being able to defraud the municipality out of $5,000, by giving bonds of security that never were worth the paper they were written on, after taking such an active part in involving the payment of taxes, set up a howl of injustice and illegality. What foundation the Co. has for questioning the legality of the council's action of imposing taxes is yet only a matter of conjecture. Was not the establishment of the municipality effected lawfully, if not justly to all? (for law is not always justice, as is clearly evidenced, by the fact that a petition signed by twenty property holders, in the proposed municipality may, upon being presented to the Lieut-Governor bring about the establishment of a municipality, in cases like that of Indian Head, where the limits of the proposed municipality are already defined. Was not the council lawfully elected? And has not that body as all such corporations the right to impose a tax by striking a rate on the assessed value of the municipality? And has not the council authority through a collector to enforce the payment of taxes, by seizing and selling in cases of refusals to pay taxes? Has not such been the course of action, of the council towards the Bell Farm?

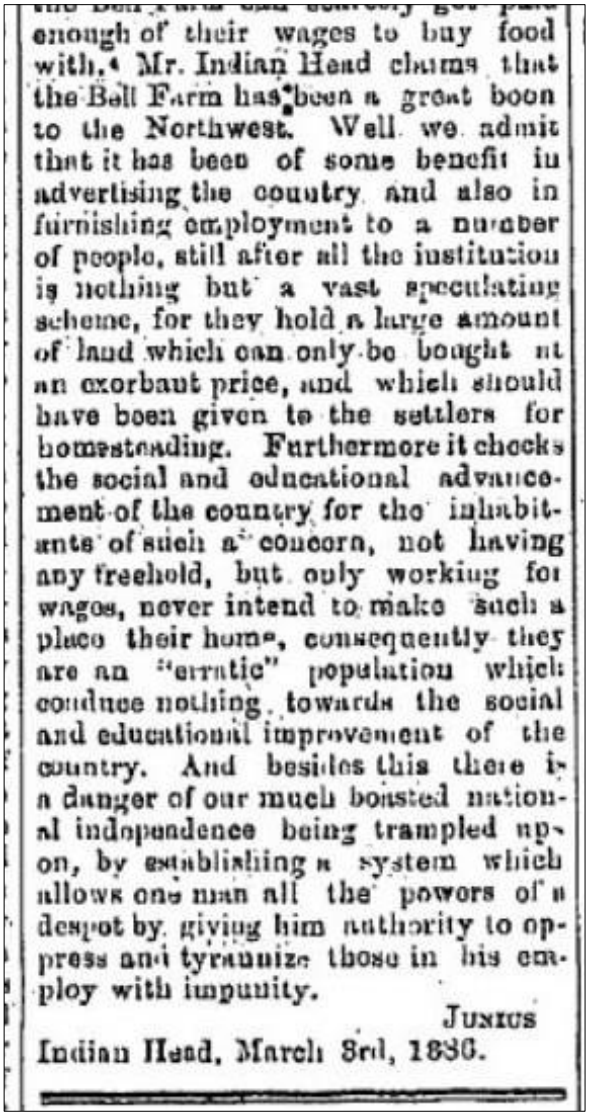
Part 7 112 kb

And yet the Co. is "quibbling" about the legality of such proceedings. Surely the Co. did not receive much encouragement in their hope that the proceedings of the council would be shown to be illegal, by those who obtained legal advice, as to whether they could be compelled to pay taxes, and not especially in the case of the man, who was told by his legal adviser that he need not pay his taxes, but upon the matter being explained at the nomination he found that he had been misinformed concerning the action of the council rendering the advice he had received worthless, for the lawyer had not been in possession of all the facts of the case when he gave the decision "Did the village of Indian Head exist before the Bell Farm came into existence?" Mr. Indian Head enquires. In reply I will say that as the Qu'Ap

Part 8 88 kb



polle Valley Farming Co. tramped so closely upon the heels of the squatters in coming to the Northwest and the C. P. R. which fixed all town sites, had not got through that far yet, there was no chance to build a village. The C. P. R. Co. finally decided to establish a town site about four miles east of where Indian Head now stands, And so it is said the Bell Farm gave a bonus to shift the town site, so that while the Bell Farm had some influence, in establishing the geographical position of Indian Head, we cannot give them much credit for encouraging the growth of the town. Ask the inhabitants of Indian Head if the Bell Farm has not "stunted the growth, paralized the commercial energies and withered the mechannical industries of Indian Head" and hear what they will say. There are numerous other towns along the line we believe quite as flurishing as Indian Head, and yet they do not attribute their healthy commercial and industrial condition, and thrifty growth, to the fostering parental care of some "vast concern" like the Bell Farm. The ability of the Bell Farm Co. to pay their taxes, if they sacrifice their chattels was never doubted. It was their ability to raise the cash which was questioned which is not at all unnatural, when such rumors are afloat that some of the families on the Bell Farm can scarcely get paid



enough of their wages to buy food with. Mr. Indian Head claims that the Bell Farm has been a great boon to the Northwest. Well we admit that it has been of some benefit in advertising the country and also in furnishing employment to a number of people, still after all the institution is nothing but a vast speculating scheme, for they hold a large amount of land which can only be bought at an exorbant price, and which should have been given to the settlers for homesteading. Furthermore it checks the social and educational advancement of the country for the inhabitants of such a concern, not having any freehold, but only working for wages, never intend to make such a place their home, consequently they are an "erratic" population which conduce nothing towards the social and educational improvement of the country. And besides this there is a danger of our much boasted national independence being trampled upon, by establishing a system which allows one man all the powers of a despot by giving him authority to oppress and tyrannize those in his employ with impunity.

JUNIUS

Indian Head, March 3rd, 1886.

Part 9 116 kb

Part 10 117 kb

1886 – March 12 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 4

"His Honor, Lieut. Governor Dewdney paid a visit to the Bell farm last Monday."

"Mr. A.J. Osment is importing a photograph outfit from England for Mr. J. Molony of Qu'Appelle."

"Mr. A.J. Osment was invited to inspect the Katepwa bridge. He reported that it was unsafe and that a new bridge would be required."

1886 – March 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* p. 2 – brickmaking at Qu'Appelle

[Editorial request for bricks needed for building. States there is plenty of good clay available (second call for same).]

1886 – March 25 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> Indian Head. "Major Bell, HJ Ebert, and Officers of the Municipality were at Regina on Wednesday last regarding the disputed taxes."
>
> "The Bell farm have sold their rights to the Indian Head townsite to the Canadian Northwest Land Co. It is to be hoped that the lots will be placed at a figure, now, which will give everybody a chance to invest without bursting their bank account."
>
> "Where is the whistle for the mill Major."
>
> "Prof. Tanner has been here for a week, the guest of Major Bell. It is generally understood his visit is relative to an agricultural college; but whether there will be more than smoke I will not venture to say."
>
> Under "Local Happenings" (Fort Qu'Appelle) "we learn that Prof. Tanner is about to establish an agriculture college at Indian Head in the near future. The probabilities are that the college will be open with 16 students."

1886 – March 27 – *NWT Gazette* - H.J. Eberts appointed Advocate

1886 – March 29 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Bell Farm sells Indian Head townsite; and Tanner to establish college

> "**MANITOBA & N.W.T** – Qu'Appelle . . . . *VIDETTE*, March 26 – The Bell Farm have sold their right in the Indian Head town site to the Canadian Northwest Land Company. It is to be hoped that the lots will be placed at a figure now which will give everybody a chance to invest without bursting their bank account."
>
> And
>
> "We learn that Prof. Tanner is about to establish and agricultural college at Indian Head in the near future, the probabilities are that the college will open with 16 students."

1886 – April 1 – Qu'Appelle Vidette, p. __

> Indian Head. "WR Allan returned from Winnipeg on Friday and brought with him a supply of dairy-maids, cooks, farm laborers and cottagers."
>
> "It is spoken of by many as a settled fact that we are to have an agricultural college here. The news is almost too good to be true. Is Indian Head really going to wake up! Rumor also has a new hotel and town hall for the summer."
>
> "Where is the whistle for the mill Major!"
>
> "Bell Farm and others have begun seeding."

1886 – 2 April – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Bell and other relating to rebellion directives – in Parliament

"**PARLIAMENT** – Mr. Casey gave 14 notices of motion regarding the rebellion, including copies of instructions to Major Bell, General Laurie, Bedson, and other non-combatants; return of moneys paid Bell and Lewis, Howard, Wright, John Stewart and Wm. Sinclair for transport; copies of correspondence between James Anderson, and Caron and Middleton respecting the purchase of supplies."

1886 – April 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __

Indian Head: "Seeding was commenced on Tuesday on the Bell Farm. They have six thousand acres ready for crop and started out twenty-three seeders."

ALSO, the following:

"Professor Tanner, of London, Eng., who is now making his fourth visit to the North West, was the guest of Major Bell last Sunday. It is announced that the Ottawa Government has given him authority to establish an agricultural college. Possibly the long projected wish of the Major in this direction may soon be carried out. Let us hope so. No better centre could be found for such an enterprise than Indian Head, convenient to water, wood and boasting of the best soil in the Territory."

1886 – April 8 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Major Bell has gone to Port Arthur."

"Bring a whistle for the mill Major."

1886 – April 9 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 2

"Indian Head. The people of Indian Head and the North-West generally will be gratified to learn that arrangements have been made to open an Agricultural College at that place. Professor Tanner has just been in Ottawa consulting the Government in reference to the College. He has made arrangements with the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. To use their new stone building, put up for an hotel in Indian Head, to which an addition is to be built so as to accommodate about fifty pupils. Professor Tanner has gone to England, and on his return will bring out an assistant. It is expected that the institution will be opened about July first." (Note – May 18 – Regina Leader - the hotel is referred to as being a brick structure)

1886 – April 15 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Both the Bell farm and town dams on Spring Creek broke on Friday and prospects are poor for our boat club."

1886 – April 22 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

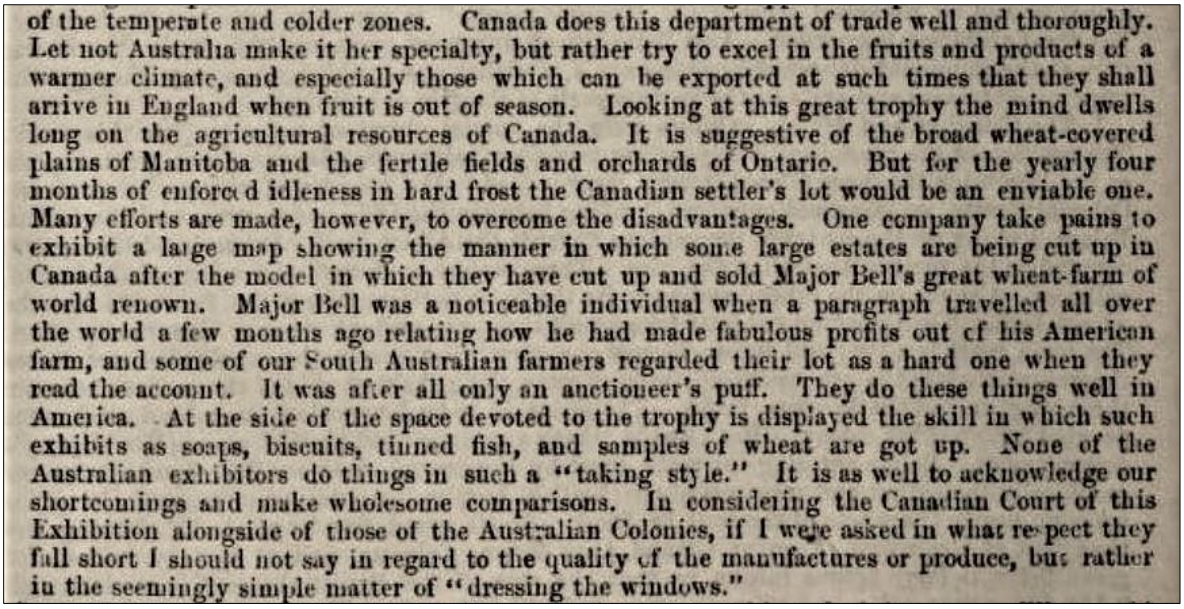
Indian Head. "The Bell farm elevator and mill will in a few days close down for the summer."

1886 – May 3 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 1 (as reported in 1906) – Bell sues former Bell Farm Directors

"There has been a disagreement among the owners of the famous Bell farm at Indian Head. Major W.R. Bell has entered suit against the other directors, Messrs. Northwood, Buxton, Duncan Macarthur and Lionel Boyle."

1886 – May 4 – Oct 15 – *Colonial and Indian Exhibition,* London England – includes Albany Settlement drawing by Prof. Tanner

1886 – *Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London* – Tanners Drawing and Bill Farm references



of the temperate and colder zones. Canada does this department of trade well and thoroughly. Let not Australia make it her specialty, but rather try to excel in the fruits and products of a warmer climate, and especially those which can be exported at such times that they shall arrive in England when fruit is out of season. Looking at this great trophy the mind dwells long on the agricultural resources of Canada. It is suggestive of the broad wheat-covered plains of Manitoba and the fertile fields and orchards of Ontario. But for the yearly four months of enforced idleness in hard frost the Canadian settler's lot would be an enviable one. Many efforts are made, however, to overcome the disadvantages. One company take pains to exhibit a large map showing the manner in which some large estates are being cut up in Canada after the model in which they have cut up and sold Major Bell's great wheat-farm of world renown. Major Bell was a noticeable individual when a paragraph travelled all over the world a few months ago relating how he had made fabulous profits out of his American farm, and some of our South Australian farmers regarded their lot as a hard one when they read the account. It was after all only an auctioneer's puff. They do these things well in America. At the side of the space devoted to the trophy is displayed the skill in which such exhibits as soaps, biscuits, tinned fish, and samples of wheat are got up. None of the Australian exhibitors do things in such a "taking style." It is as well to acknowledge our shortcomings and make wholesome comparisons. In considering the Canadian Court of this Exhibition alongside of those of the Australian Colonies, if I were asked in what respect they fall short I should not say in regard to the quality of the manufactures or produce, but rather in the seemingly simple matter of "dressing the windows."

214 kb

1886 – May 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Major Bell and H.J. Eberts have returned from Winnipeg." ok

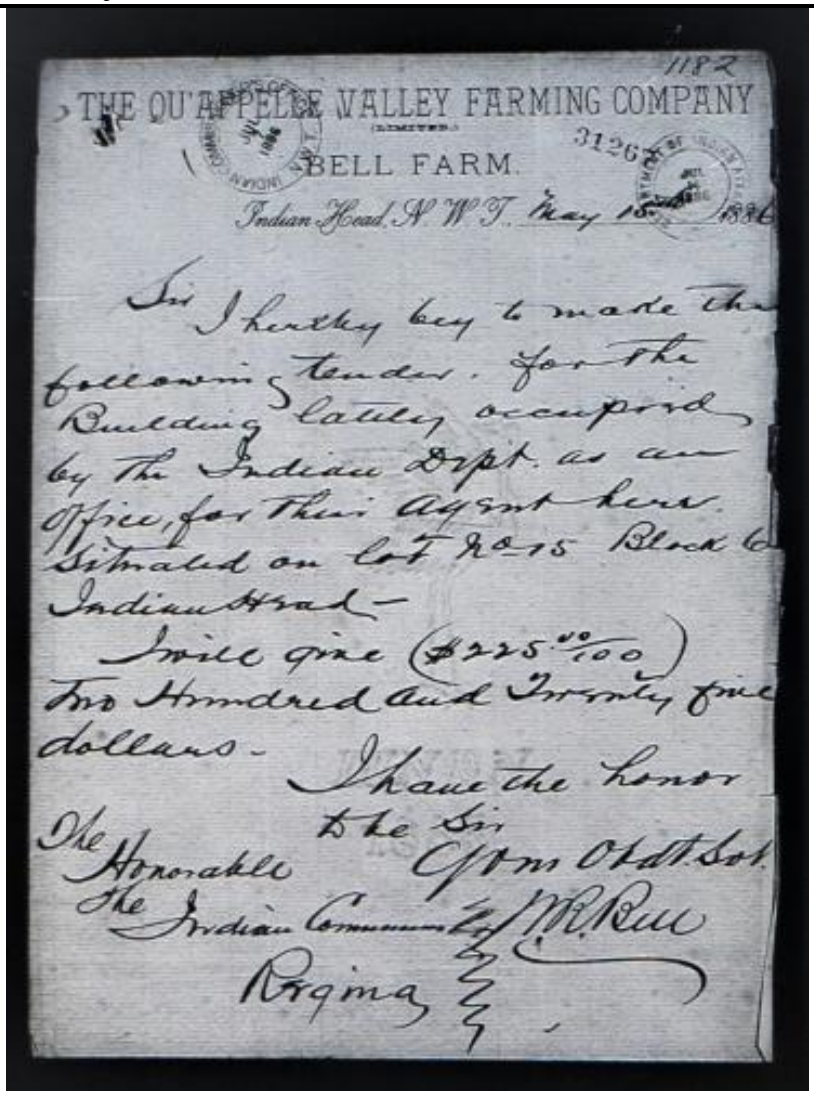
"The Bell farm mill dam is full now." ok

1886 – May 15 – (18 documents) Major Bell submits a tender to purchase the former Indian Agency building in Indian Head (Source: Library and Archives Canada: Black Series, RG 10, Volume 3717, File 22,550-4, Reel: C10125.) Full exchange from 1885 to 1919 follows:

August 12, 1885 – letter from Indian Commissioner Edgar Dewdney to Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Sir John A. Macdonald, reporting that a new house should be built for Indian Agent William S. Grant on the Assiniboine Reserve, and that he (Dewdney) is negotiating sale of the old "warehouse" in Indian Head or for its removal to that Reserve. Later Notation: construction of new house on the Assiniboine Reserve is approved.

Sept. 24, 1885 – confirmation that construction of the new house on the Assiniboine Reserve is approved.

May 15, 1886 – Major Bell submits a tender for $225 to the Indian Commissioner, Regina to purchase the surplus Indian Agent Office, located on Lot 15, Block 6, Indian Head.



1182

THE QU'APPELLE VALLEY FARMING COMPANY
(LIMITED)
BELL FARM.
Indian Head N. W. T. May 15 1886

Sir I hereby beg to make the following tender for the Building lately occupied by the Indian Dept. as an Office, for their Agent here. Situated on Lot No 15 Block 6 Indian Head—

I will give ($225.00/100) Two Hundred and Twenty five dollars.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your Obdt Svt
M. Bell

The Honorable
The Indian Commissioner
Regina

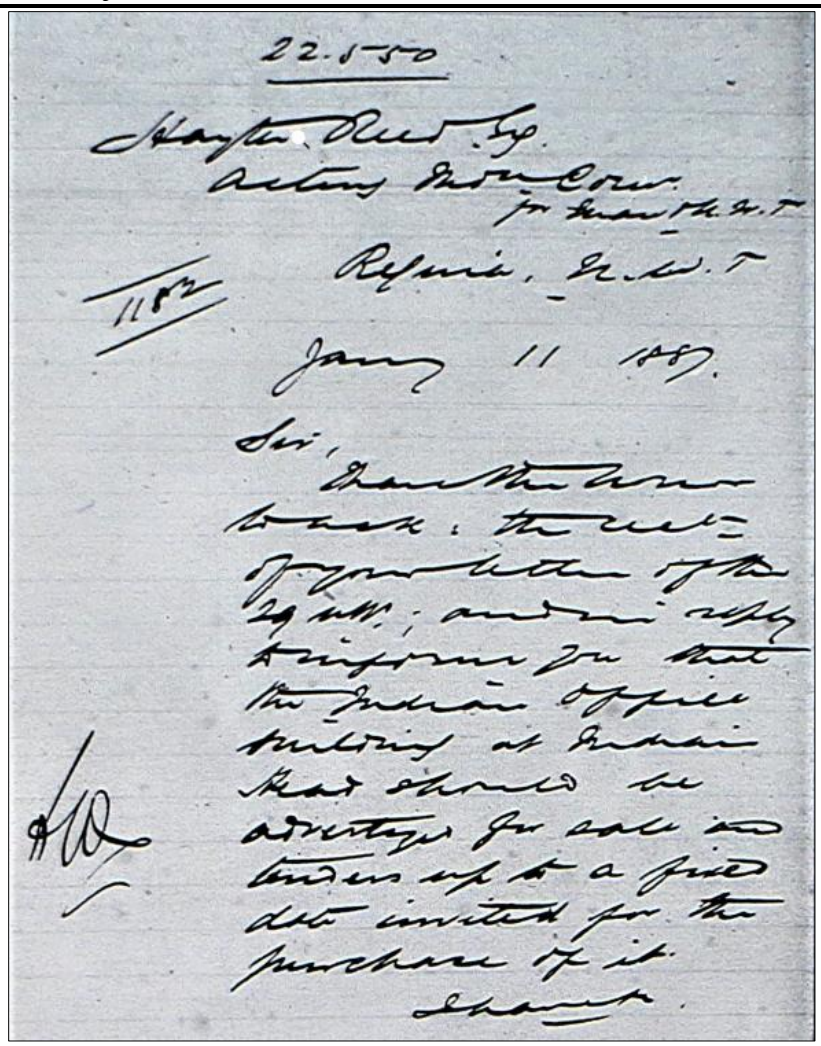
200 kb

July 6, 1886 – Dewdney write to the Macdonald stating that the tender from Major Bell is the only one received and recommends that it be accepted, before the unmaintained building deteriorates further. Later Notation: Lawrence Vankoughnet, Deputy Superintendent has added a notation asking what the building originally cost to be erected.

July 24, 1886 – reply from Vankoughnet to Dewdney states that the building cost $900 to build, and that the tender from Bell is therefore insufficient.

Dec. 29, 1886 – Hayter Reed, Assistant Indian Commissioner writes to Macdonald reiterating that Bell's offer should be accepted before the building deteriorates further. Later Notation by Vankoughnet: building should be re-advertised for sale.

Jan. 11, 1887 – *almost impossible to read*: writer, apparently Vankoughnet, tells Reed to proceed with advertising the building for sale.



481 KB

Feb. 12, 1887 – Joseph Glenn, of Indian Head, submits a tender for $130 for the former Indian Agent Office; building to be removed within 30 days.

Feb. 17, 1887 – Hayter Reed writes to Macdonald, stating Glenn's offer, and lamenting the fact that Bell's higher offer was rejected. Major Bell being away, Reed cannot ascertain if the original offer is still available. Later Notation by Vankoughnet: says Reed or Dewdney should determine if Bell's offer is still open, and, if so, it is now acceptable to Ottawa.

March 2, 1887 – *very difficult to read* - Vankoughnet writes to Dewdney stating that Bell's original offer is now acceptable.

April 11, 1888 – Duncan Campbell Scott, clerk in Dept of Interior, writes note to Deputy Minister in Ottawa – suggests that Dewdney be asked if Indian Head building was sold, and if not, what was done with it.

April 19, 1888 - *almost impossible to read*: a repeat of Scott's request to the Deputy Minister: Notation by Vankoughnet - approved.

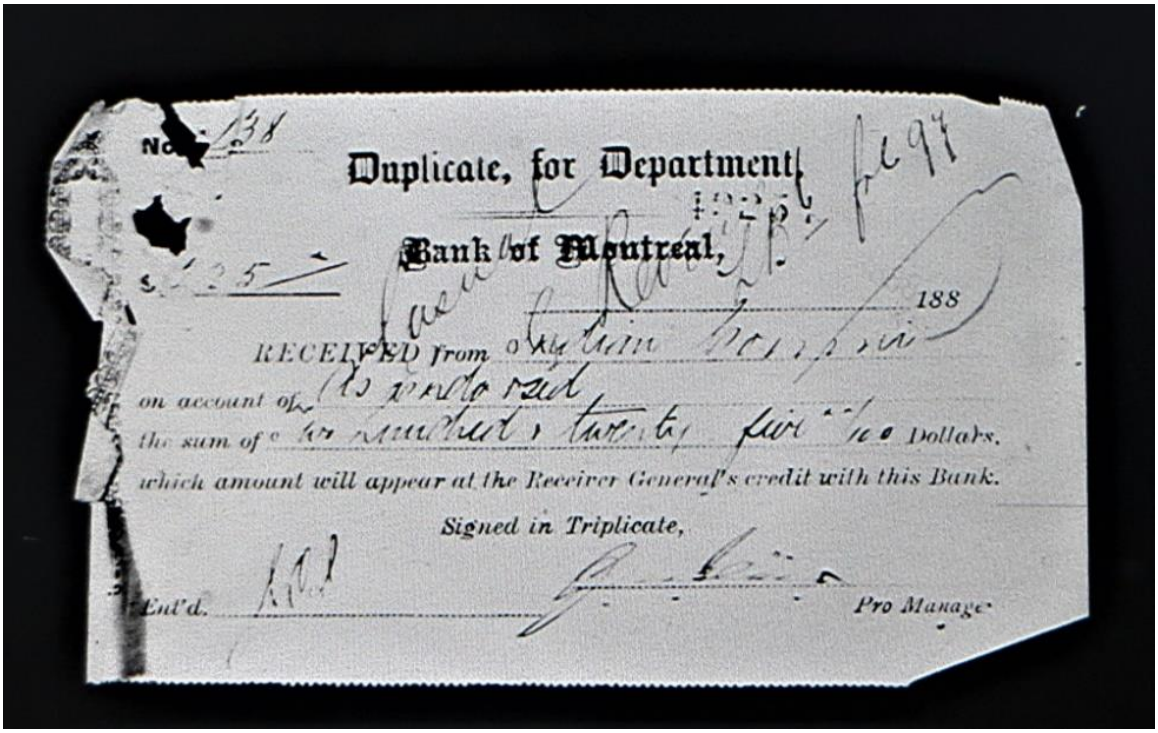
April 30, 1888 – letter from _____ on behalf of Dewdney to Macdonald: Bell had withdrawn his offer, as the government's acceptance of it came too late; negotiations then proceeded with Mr. Crawford, Indian Head on behalf of another buyer, but that too fell through; the writer now recommends that the old Indian Agent office in Indian Head be dismantled and re-built on the Reserve for Indian Agent Grant (his new house would cost

$450 and this task would likely cost about the same); Later Notion by Vankoughnet: unclear handwriting but some form of expenditure is approved.

May 11, 1888 – letter from Vankoughnet to Dewdney – approves removal of the Indian Head building

June 19, 1888 – Dewdney to Macdonald - announces sale of former Indian Agent Office for $225 and attaches cheque; Dewdney had recommended that the building be turned over to the Indian Agency and moved to the Assiniboine Reserve, however, when they went to move the building it was determined that it would cost too much and suffer too much damage; and, when an unexpected offer for $225 was received, Dewdney accepted it without further consultation.

1888 - Undated receipt for $225 – *text virtually illegible, "Received from"* might be followed by *"Indian Commissioner"*



589 KB

Sept 5, 1919 – letter from Dan Maclean, Regina Land Titles Office to Secretary, Indian Affairs, Ottawa reporting that Indian Agent W.S. Grant sold the Indian Head building to him in about 1889-1890 for about $200. Maclean asks for confirmation of this transaction in order to clear up an estate.

Sept 16, 1919 – W.A. Orr, Land and Timber Branch, Ottawa, replies to Maclean that the name of the purchaser in 1888 was not provided with that earlier correspondence.

1886 – May 10 - - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - – check for details – [Frank's Note – no newspaper printed on this date.]

1886 – May 18 – *Regina Leader:* Indian Head: p. 4 - far left and 2nd from left columns

[Several references to the Bell Farm, the Mill, 32 portable bins, Professor Tanner, and 500 pigs]

INDIAN HEAD.

(Special Correspondence)

This western town of some 200 inhabitants distant 312 miles west of Winnipeg, and forty-four miles east of the Queen City, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has already become noted at home and abroad, principally on account of the "Bell Farm." The great men of the earth when doing this country generally see the 57,000 acre farm. This may account for the presence of your correspondent. The present outlook from an agricultural standpoint is very hopeful. The Bell Farm alone has 6000 acres under cultivation, this season 5,800 being exclusively sown in wheat, the balance will be principally barley. The flouring mill owned by the Bell Farming Co., and which stands in close proximity to the C.P.R. Depot has a capacity of 150 bls. per day; the mill has been suspended for the time being, owing to some litigation in process between parties interested in stocks. They also have a grain elevator here with a capacity of 50,000 bushels, and thirty-two others scattered over the big farm with various capacities of from 500 to 1000 bushels each. These small elevators are utilized at convenient points to hold the immense harvest temporarily when being threshed. The present prospects indicate that the capacities of the thirty-four elevators will fall far short of being adequate to meet the wants this season, when this vast wheat field throws its golden harvest this fall. We find here three general stores, one harness shop, one blacksmith shop, two implement establishments and one tin shop, all in full blast and doing a rushing business. Everybody contented, many delighted, and all hopeful as to the future of the great Northwest, and their own town in particular.

W. R. Boyd is the proprietor of a commodious hotel, and Mrs. Boyd seems a very genial landlady. Miss Barnes teaches the young idea how to shoot; the school is a large one, with an average attendance of thirty youthful spirits, they speak volumes for this place. They have a new acquisition to the thriving town in the person of Dr. McGinnes, who will doubtless meet the medical wants of the people; they all look healthy at present, and if he fails to keep up present appearances, his skill be in doubt.

Rev. Alex. Hamilton attends to the spiritual wants of the place. During the writers' sojourn he had the pleasure of being present at an ordination service, when a promising young man named Gardiner was set apart for the ministry, and bid to go and fulfill the great commission of Him who went about doing good. There were a number of reverend gentlemen present, among whom we noticed the kind face of Revd. Mr. Urquhart of Regina. The services were very impressive.

Your correspondent was gratified to learn that Prof. Tanner, of South Kensington, London, England is about locating an agricultural college here. The large new brick hotel built by the Bell Farming Co. some time ago has been secured for a college and the company have granted them for the present object 640 acres of land in the vicinity. The C.P.R. have also done the same, thus two full sections will be utilized to farm the students out. The eminent Dr. Tanner will reach here some time in the latter part of June with thirty students. This college will be a valuable advertisement to the Northwest, and the presence of Dr. Tanner in this rich agricultural country will be like a bright star above the horison.

We should have noted that the Bell Farm employs 300 men and 150 teams this season, paying some $10,000 out monthly for wages, etc.

We learn that J. A. Kammerer, Agent C.P.R., at this place has been honored with th appointment as President of the Canadian Northwest Division of the National Railroad Station Agents' Association, a comparatively new organization, one that is destined to do much good and extend its influence all over the continent The association has already won friends among all classes and is endorsed by leading railway officials who wish it success.

BELL FARM.

Visited Bell Farm. In splendid condition. Crop beautifully put in. Saw 500 young sucking pigs tugging away at their mother. Messrs. John Tazewell and E. T. Lawley York, both of Chedzy, Bridgewater, Somersetshire, have been passing through the country with the view of settling here. They are both gentlemen of means. On Friday night they started for Calgary.

46 kb

67 kb

1886 – May 19 – Formal establishment of the Bell Farm Company, with the following directors.

Robert William Bell, William Lewis Boyle, Duncan McArthur, William Rae Allan, Thomas Howard, Ralph Thomas Rokeby, and Hermann Joseph Eberts

(Notice published in the Canada Gazette for June 6, 1886 (see photo below for that date)

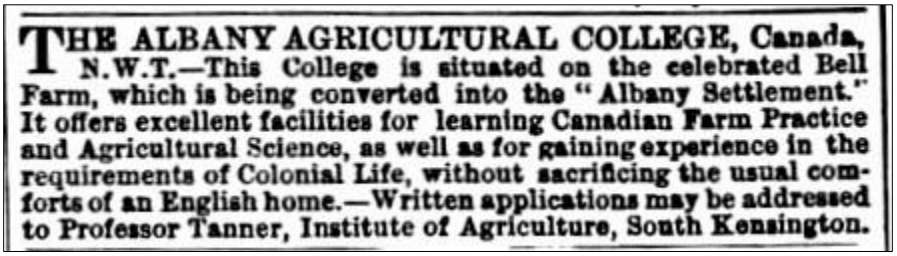
1886 – May 20 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Probably the complacent smile which illuminated the features of our municipal tax gatherer on his return from Regina, some weeks ago, will fade when he finds the suit of Municipality vs Bell Farm has gone the wrong way. Livery Bill of $80, lawyers fees, and railway fares to and from Regina will probably be paid with a 'complacent' smile by the municipality and the small farmer taxed additionally for it, while the 'monopoly' scores a victory."

"Major Bell went to Minneapolis on Sunday night's train, to be gone ten days."

"The Bell farm have planted two acres of beans. What next?"

1886 – May 20 – *London Morning Post* , p. __ – report on Albany Agricultural College / Settlement



THE ALBANY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Canada, N.W.T.—This College is situated on the celebrated Bell Farm, which is being converted into the "Albany Settlement." It offers excellent facilities for learning Canadian Farm Practice and Agricultural Science, as well as for gaining experience in the requirements of Colonial Life, without sacrificing the usual comforts of an English home.—Written applications may be addressed to Professor Tanner, Institute of Agriculture, South Kensington.

61 kb

1886 – May 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 6 – Bell Farm report - same as *Regina Leader*, May 18, p. 4 – first paragraph

1886 – May 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ [pdf copy in file] – check for details

Indian Head: Includes references to the grist (flour) mill and elevator, as well as to 32 granaries (little elevators) scattered around the Bell Farm. (Frank's NOTE: year might be 1887 – need to verify)

1886 – May 27 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – [see also June 3 & June 4 below] – same items?????

p. 1 - Colonial and Indian Exhibition - "Tanner, Prof. drawing of a model colonial settlement proposed to be established in the Northwest – Bell Farm, Katepwa, and Fort Qu'Appelle in the distance." – at London, England.

p. 3 - Indian Head. "Dr. McInnes is having considerable work - . . . Mr. Dickinson of the Bell Farm, thrown from horse breaking his collar bone – all doing as well as could be expected."

p. 3 – Indian Head - "Mr. W.L. Boyle, president of Bell Far, is in town."

"T. Howard, of Winnipeg, and B.P. Buxton of London, Eng., were at the Bell farm on Saturday and Sunday." (Frank: streets named after Buxton and Howard) – not May 27 - which issue?????

1886 – May 28 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1

"An accident occurred at the Bell farm on Wednesday last by which Mr. W. Dickson sustained a fracture of the shoulder. He was jumping Mr. Sherwood's pony over a hurdle when the pony fell and threw Mr. Dickson on his shoulder, causing the fracture."

[Item re Tanner, photocopied.] – can't find in newspaper – possibly May 27 above?

1886 – May – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
208	1886	Paul R. Lyon	Fort Qu'Appelle	
209	May 12, 1886	*E. Thawray*-York	Bridgewater, Somerset	England
210		John *Tazewell ….*	*Chedroy,* Bridgewater Twp	England
211	May 23, 1886	B.H. Buxton	London, England	Same as # 49

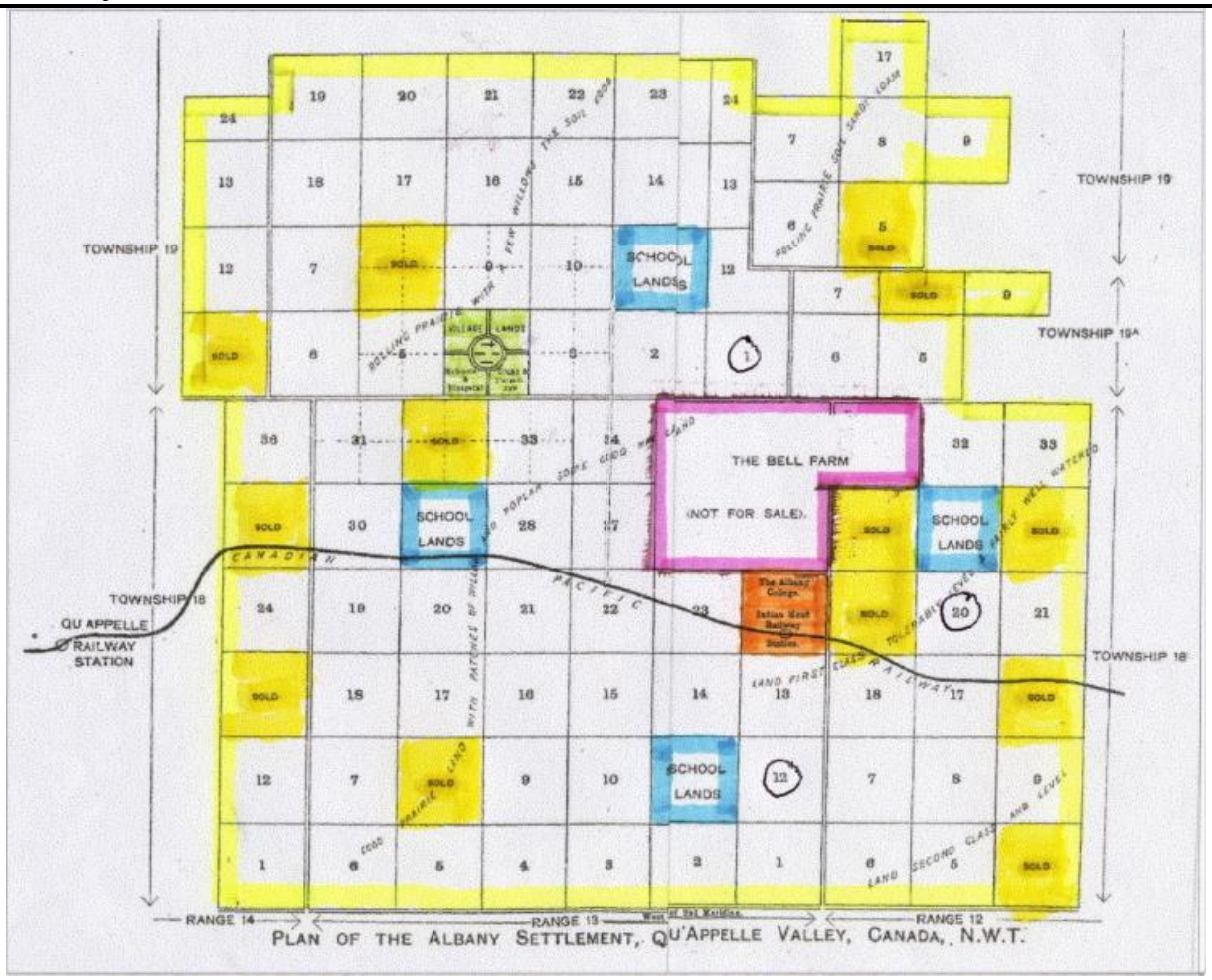
1886 – June 3 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

Indian Head. "Dr. McInnis is having considerable work . . . Mr. Dickinson, of the Bell farm, thrown from horse breaking his collar bone . . . all doing as well as could be expected."

"Mr. W.L. Boyle, president of Bell farm, is in town."

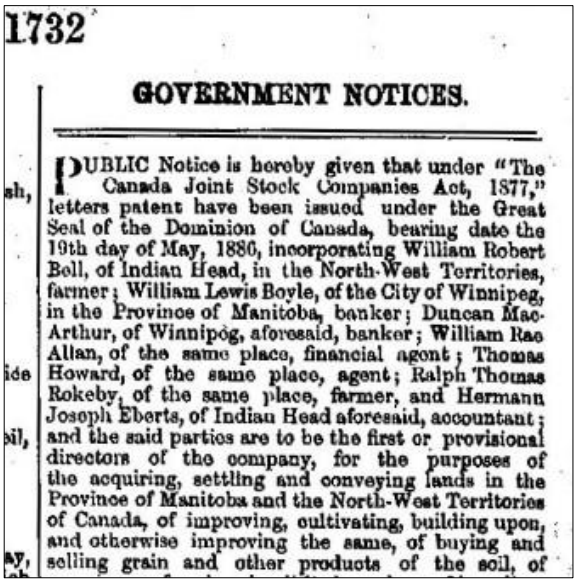
1886 – June 4 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ (PDF for files?) – check for details

Discussion about Professor Tanner and the proposed Albany settlement and the Albany Agricultural College to be established in the near future at Indian Head. (Frank's note: appears to be 1886, but need to verify if this is 1887.)



Map from Albany Settlement proposal, 1886. 478 kb

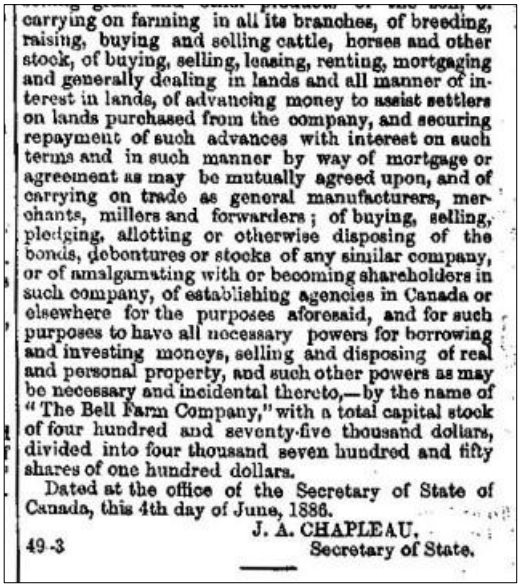
1886 – June 6 – *Canada Gazette* published names of new directors for the Bell Farm Company, which was legally formed on May 19, 1886:



1732

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

PUBLIC Notice is hereby given that under "The Canada Joint Stock Companies Act, 1877," letters patent have been issued under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada, bearing date the 19th day of May, 1886, incorporating William Robert Bell, of Indian Head, in the North-West Territories, farmer; William Lewis Boyle, of the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, banker; Duncan MacArthur, of Winnipeg, aforesaid, banker; William Rae Allan, of the same place, financial agent; Thomas Howard, of the same place, agent; Ralph Thomas Rokeby, of the same place, farmer, and Hermann Joseph Eberts, of Indian Head aforesaid, accountant; and the said parties are to be the first or provisional directors of the company, for the purposes of the acquiring, settling and conveying lands in the Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories of Canada, of improving, cultivating, building upon, and otherwise improving the same, of buying and selling grain and other products of the soil, of



carrying on farming in all its branches, of breeding, raising, buying and selling cattle, horses and other stock, of buying, selling, leasing, renting, mortgaging and generally dealing in lands and all manner of interest in lands, of advancing money to assist settlers on lands purchased from the company, and securing repayment of such advances with interest on such terms and in such manner by way of mortgage or agreement as may be mutually agreed upon, and of carrying on trade as general manufacturers, merchants, millers and forwarders; of buying, selling, pledging, allotting or otherwise disposing of the bonds, debentures or stocks of any similar company, or of amalgamating with or becoming shareholders in such company, of establishing agencies in Canada or elsewhere for the purposes aforesaid, and for such purposes to have all necessary powers for borrowing and investing moneys, selling and disposing of real and personal property, and such other powers as may be necessary and incidental thereto,—by the name of "The Bell Farm Company," with a total capital stock of four hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, divided into four thousand seven hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars.

Dated at the office of the Secretary of State of Canada, this 4th day of June, 1886.

J. A. CHAPLEAU,
Secretary of State.

49-3

104 & 117 kb

1886 – June 8 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 4 – Letter Patent issued for Bell Farm Company

"LETTERS patent have been issued incorporating Mr. Bell, of Indian Head, Messrs. Boyle, Macarthur and Howard, of Winnipeg, and Allan, Pakeley and Eberts, as the Bell Farm Company for colonization and cultivation purposes, with a capital of half a million dollars."

1886 – June – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
212	June 4, 1886	Rev. L. Norman Tucker	Montreal	Quebec Rev. L. Norman Tucker was appointed the Anglican Principal of the Sabrevois Mission College, Montreal in 1879, and in 1893 the Rector of Christ Anglican Church, Vancouver. He visited the Bell Farm on June 4, 1886. In his 1911 book 'Sea to Sea' Tucker refers to Bishop Anson and the "Railway Mission" in Saskatchewan.
213	June 5, 1886	W.*F.* Henderson	Winnipeg	Manitoba
214	June 14, 1886	Henry *Afreif*	London	England
215	"	W.E. Brown	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
216		H. *Fennergreig*	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
217		W. *Syme* Redpath	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
218		L. *R.* Empey	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
219		Edythe Empey	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan
220		Helene Empey	Qu'Appelle Station	Saskatchewan

1886 – June 10 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "Major Bell is at Ottawa."

1886 – June 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

"**Major Bell's Schemes:** Major Bell, of the famous Bell farm, is at the Queen's on a short visit to the city. "Everything on the farm looks splendid at present" he said. Its perfect in fact. I never in any previous year saw anything to equal the condition of the crops at this season. I expect wheat will be headed out in two weeks"

"What about the proposed agricultural college?"

"Well, Prof. Tanner who is to have charge of it is now in England to obtain students. We expect to have about fifty students, so that it will be quite a large institution. Prof. Tanner and an assistant will conduct the college and instruction will be given in practical and theoretical farming. A small sum will be charged students to cover actual expenses. I feel sure it will be a great success and will be the means of inducing many young Englishmen and others to come to this country and settle, after receiving a thorough training in the college."

"I noticed in the Sun last night," continued the Major, "a paragraph about a man in Texas who was starting a buffalo ranche, and it was referred to as a novel and an excellent idea. I was specially interested in it, as a number of us are now forming a joint stock company to start a buffalo ranche near Winnipeg. We have purchased Capt. Bedson's herd of buffalo, and intend to establish a fancy stock farm. We will get some three or four hundred cattle and cross breed them with buffalo, and will also bring to the country a large number of thoroughbred cattle." - Sun

1886 – 12 June – *The Northwest Review*, Winnipeg, p. 10 – Letters patent issued for the new Bell Farm Company.

"Letters patent have been issued incorporating Mr. Bell, of Indian Head, Messrs Boyle, Macarth Howard, of Winnipeg and Alien, Pakeley [sic -should be Rokeby] and Eberts , as the Bell Farm Company for colonization and cultivation purposes, with a capital of half a million dollars." [The names should be: Bell, Boyle, Macarthur, Howard, Allan, Rokeby and Eberts.]

1886 – June 12 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 3 – Bells to establish buffalo farm; & agricultural college news

"**TELEGRAPHIC-** CANADIAN NEWS –Winnipeg, June 7 - Major Bell intends establishing a buffalo breeding farm. He also expects to have 50 pupils at the agricultural college farm"

1886 – June 16 – "*Montreal Gazette*", p. 1 – Major Bell and Buffalo – Polled Angus Breeding Scheme

"Major Bell has completed his arrangements for the incorporation of the Northwest Buffalo Breeding company, and a notice of incorporation will likely appear in the *Canada Gazette* of Saturday. Major Bell says it is the intention of the company to cross the buffalo with the Polled Angus breed. In this way the hide alone would be worth more than the price of a Polled Angus heifer. A breed of cattle would also be raised which would be better able to stand the climate of the North-west."

1886 – June 17 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

Indian Head. "Wheat twenty inches high on the Bell farm."

1886 – June 18 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 1

"A Novel Scheme": [Bedford's proposal & Northwest Buffalo Breeding Company – extensive text, ending with this comment on Major Bell's involvement:[

"Major Bell, who is a director and also secretary-treasurer of the proposed company, left for the east to interview Canadian and American capitalists, and hopes in thirty days

to have the agreements for the organization of the company fully under way. A small amount of stock has been reserved for Winnipeggers who may desire to invest. – Manitoban."

1886 – June 24 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 1 – Major Bell elected membership in Winnipeg's Farmers Club

"At a committee meeting of the Farmers Club, held at the club room, Grand Union Hotel, Winnipeg, on Wednesday the 16th inst., the following additional gentlemen were elected members: . . . . Major Bell, Indian Head; . . . . "

1886 – June 25 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2

[Major Bell and the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company (Bell Farm) were actively involved with this Commission, which met in Qu'Appelle in June of 1886.]

"**REBELLION CLAIMS COMMISSION** The Commission at present sitting here under the chairmanship of Justice Ouimet, is dealing only with claims for losses during the rebellion, and not with claims against the Militia Department for transport or other services. This Commission has been appointed and is acting under instructions from the Department of the Interior not the Department of Militia and Defence, and is completing its labours as far as reception of evidence is concerned at this point. When the Commissioners leave here they go to Ottawa, making a short stay at Winnipeg to complete their enquiry into the claims of the merchants in the north and west."

1886 – June 25 – *Edmonton Bulletin* (as reported in 1910) – buffalo ranche formation

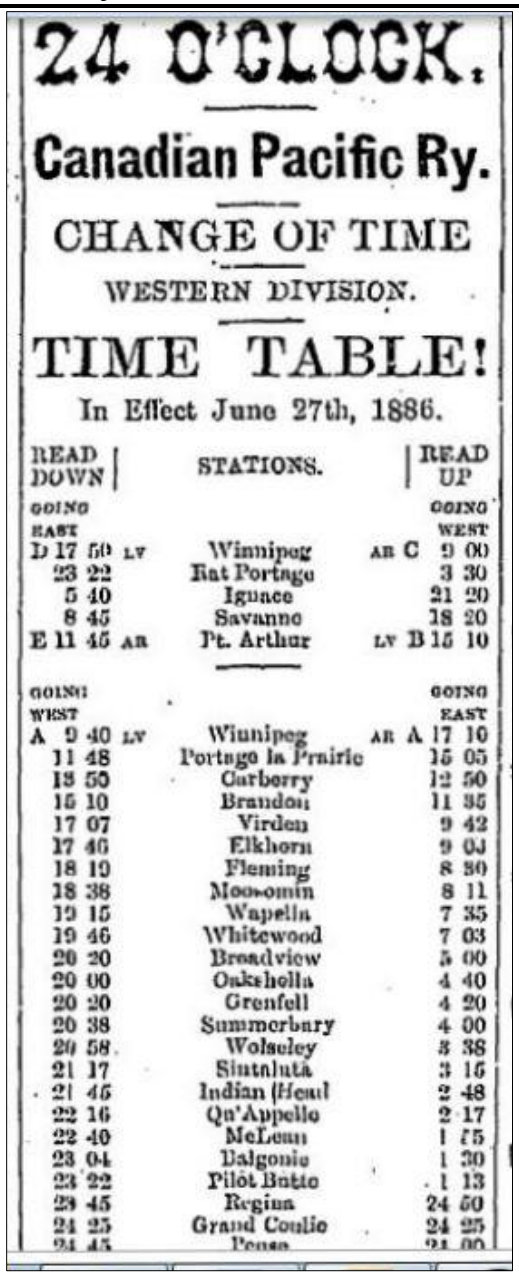
"A company has been formed to start a buffalo ranche, and has bought S.L. Bedson's Stoney Mountain herd for a start. The idea is a good one. The weak point of the scheme is that Major Bell of the Bell farm is at the head of it."

1886 – June 26 – *Edmonton Journal*, p. 4 – buffalo ranch proposal (same article as above)

"**LOCAL -** A company has been formed to start a buffalo ranche, and has bought S.L. Bedson's Stoney Mountain herd for a start. The idea is a good one. The weak point of the scheme is that Major Bell of the Bell farm is at the head of it."

1886 – July 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* – p. 2

[New 24 Hour Time Table for CPR trains indicates time that the trains passed through Indian Head – not much opportunity to see the Bell Farm at 9:45 pm going West or 2:48 a.m. going East.]



24 O'CLOCK.

Canadian Pacific Ry.

CHANGE OF TIME

WESTERN DIVISION.

TIME TABLE!

In Effect June 27th, 1886.

READ DOWN		STATIONS.		READ UP
GOING EAST				GOING WEST
D 17 50	LV	Winnipeg	AR C	9 00
23 22		Rat Portage		3 30
5 40		Iguace		21 20
8 45		Savanne		18 20
E 11 45	AR	Pt. Arthur	LV B	15 10
GOING WEST				GOING EAST
A 9 40	LV	Winnipeg	AR A	17 10
11 48		Portage la Prairie		15 05
13 50		Carberry		12 50
15 10		Brandon		11 35
17 07		Virden		9 42
17 46		Elkhorn		9 03
18 19		Fleming		8 30
18 38		Moosomin		8 11
19 15		Wapella		7 35
19 46		Whitewood		7 03
20 20		Broadview		5 00
20 00		Oakshella		4 40
20 20		Grenfell		4 20
20 38		Summerbary		4 00
20 58		Wolseley		3 38
21 17		Sintaluta		3 15
21 45		Indian Head		2 48
22 16		Qu'Appelle		2 17
22 40		McLean		1 75
23 04		Balgonie		1 30
23 22		Pilot Butte		1 13
23 45		Regina		24 50
24 25		Grand Coulie		24 25
24 45		Pense		24 00

51 kb

1886 – July 3 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. l – Bell Farm teamsters during 1885 Rebellion

> "It may please some of the teamsters who were docked on either time or rates for their services with the troops to Pitt last spring to know that the Bell farm teams and those the property of Major Bell received $10 a day from the beginning of the outbreak until the 1st of May, and $8 a day from that time until their return to Indian Head after the transport business was wound up. At the same time Major Bell was paying $4.50 a day to teamsters to haul freight for which the government paid him $125 a ton."

1886 – July 8 – *The Star* (Guernsey, England), p. 4 – Major Bell and the North-West Buffalo Breeding Company

> "**A NEW LIVE STOCK VENTURE**. Major Bell, of Indian Head (Bell Farm), has completed his arrangements for the incorporation of the North-West Buffalo Breeding Company. He says it is the intention of the company to cross the buffalo with the Polled Angus breed. In this way the hide alone would be worth more than the price of the Polled Angus heifer. It is also

claimed that a breed of cattle will be raised which will be valuable in many ways to the farmers of the North-West."

1886 – July 15 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

Indian Head. "Major Bell went east on Friday.

"Quite a number of the Bell Farm employees indulged in a strike last week, and as a result there are quite a number looking for work."

1886 – July 23 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __ – check for details

Katepwa. Mrs. Major Bell attended a picnic in aid of the English church building at the foot of Fishing Lakes.

1886 – July 27 – *Winnipeg Free Press* , p. __ (published in Fifty Years Ago – July 27, 1936)

"The Bell Farm at Indian Head started a full force of reapers cutting wheat; the grain was fully ripe, and the sample equal to any heretofore grown at Indian Head; the yield was estimated at 30 to 35 bushels to the acre. The Northwest Rebellion Claims commission, Ottawa, had almost completed its report."

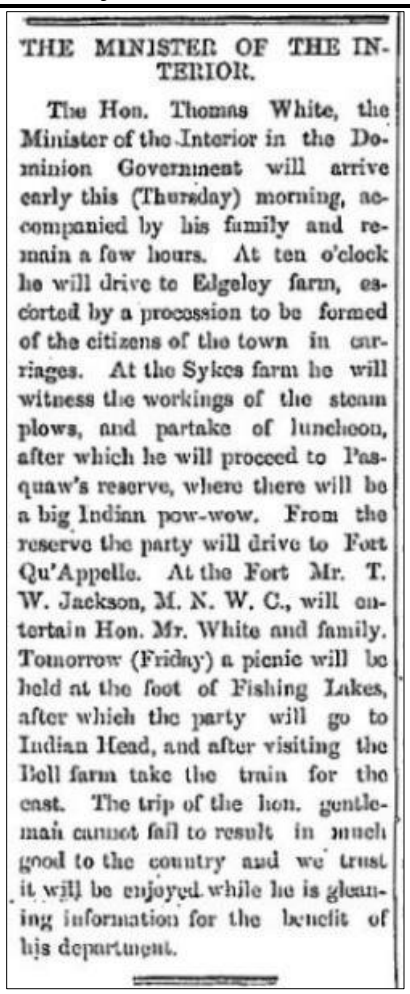
1886 – July - mid and 20 - [Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald pass through Indian Head en route to the Pacific Coast. Although Major Bell was a staunch Conservative, no mention is made of the Macdonalds stopping to visit with Major and Mrs. Bell.]

1886 – July 29 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette*, p. 2 – Bell Farm crop report as reaping gets underway (Also printed in the Aug. 3, 1886 issue of the *Regina Leader* p. 1, and in the Aug. 7, 1886 issue of *The Northwest Review*, Winnipeg)

"**INDIAN HEAD** – A telegraphic despatch from Indian Head, dated Monday, the 26th inst., says: "The Bell farm start a full force of reapers cutting wheat tomorrow. It is fully ripe, and the sample is equal if not better than any heretofore grown in this section. There are some fields which it will not pay to reap, but the crop on the bell farm is fully two-thirds and likely a little more. One field of six hundred acres is excellent, and estimated by competent judges to yield thirty to thirty-five bushels per acre. . . . . "

1886 - July 29 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 4

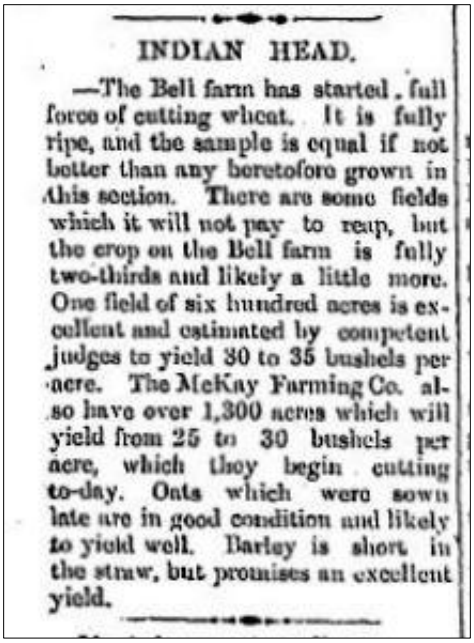
[Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior, plus harvest report. White signed the Bell Farm Visitors Register on a previous visit, on Oct. 25, 1885 (Visitor # 203).]



THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

The Hon. Thomas White, the Minister of the Interior in the Dominion Government will arrive early this (Thursday) morning, accompanied by his family and remain a few hours. At ten o'clock he will drive to Edgeley farm, escorted by a procession to be formed of the citizens of the town in carriages. At the Sykes farm he will witness the workings of the steam plows, and partake of luncheon, after which he will proceed to Pasquaw's reserve, where there will be a big Indinn pow-wow. From the reserve the party will drive to Fort Qu'Appelle. At the Fort Mr. T. W. Jackson, M. N. W. C., will entertain Hon. Mr. White and family. Tomorrow (Friday) a picnic will be held at the foot of Fishing Lakes, after which the party will go to Indian Head, and after visiting the Bell farm take the train for the east. The trip of the hon. gentleman cannot fail to result in much good to the country and we trust it will be enjoyed while he is gleaning information for the benefit of his department.

46 kb

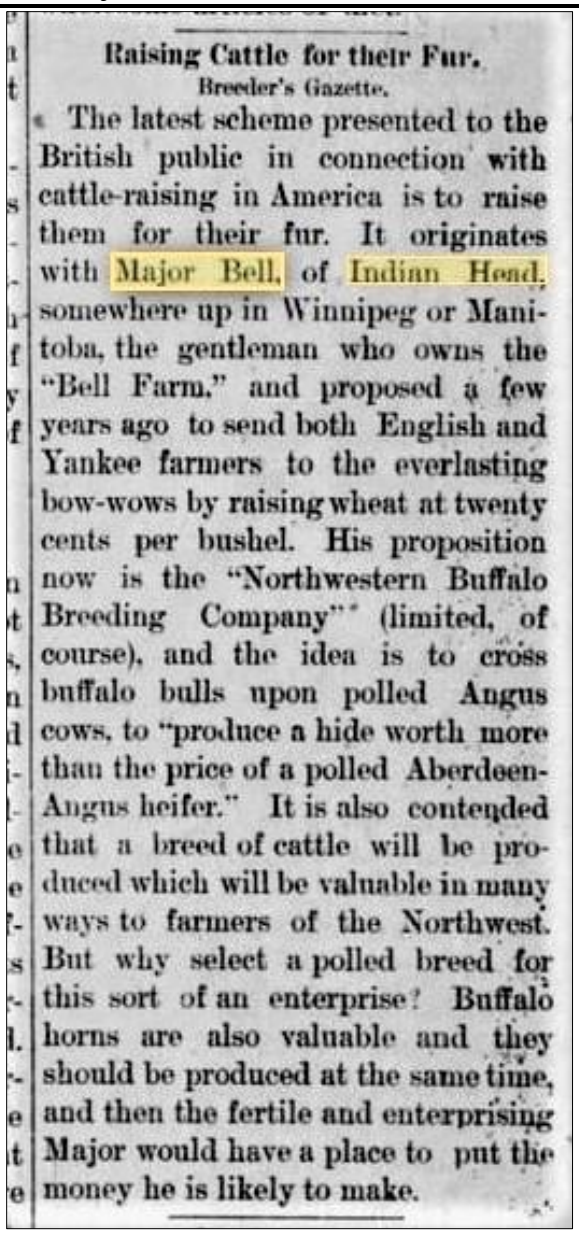


INDIAN HEAD.

—The Bell farm has started full force of cutting wheat. It is fully ripe, and the sample is equal if not better than any heretofore grown in this section. There are some fields which it will not pay to reap, but the crop on the Bell farm is fully two-thirds and likely a little more. One field of six hundred acres is excellent and estimated by competent judges to yield 30 to 35 bushels per acre. The McKay Farming Co. also have over 1,300 acres which will yield from 25 to 30 bushels per acre, which they begin cutting to-day. Oats which were sown late are in good condition and likely to yield well. Barley is short in the straw, but promises an excellent yield.

59 kb

1886 – Aug. 3 – *Billings Gazette*, p. 1 – Sarcastic comment on Bell's Buffalo Breeding Company proposal



Raising Cattle for their Fur.

Breeder's Gazette.

The latest scheme presented to the British public in connection with cattle-raising in America is to raise them for their fur. It originates with Major Bell, of Indian Head, somewhere up in Winnipeg or Manitoba, the gentleman who owns the "Bell Farm," and proposed a few years ago to send both English and Yankee farmers to the everlasting bow-wows by raising wheat at twenty cents per bushel. His proposition now is the "Northwestern Buffalo Breeding Company" (limited, of course), and the idea is to cross buffalo bulls upon polled Angus cows, to "produce a hide worth more than the price of a polled Aberdeen-Angus heifer." It is also contended that a breed of cattle will be produced which will be valuable in many ways to farmers of the Northwest. But why select a polled breed for this sort of an enterprise? Buffalo horns are also valuable and they should be produced at the same time, and then the fertile and enterprising Major would have a place to put the money he is likely to make.

104 kb

1886 – Aug. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

Indian Head. "Where is Professor Tanner, he is long past due."

Small farmers reporting poor crops but "The Bell farm began cutting wheat on July 27th. It is fully ripe and no doubt will be a fine sample"

1886 – Aug. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 left column

[Minister White's tour, which included Edgeley Farm, ended with a picnic at Katepwa.] "After the picnic, Major Bell took Mr. White into his carriage, the Fort people returned; some of the Qu'Appelle people went round by Indian Head, and all making their way home in different directions. Thus ended according to Mr. White, one of the most pleasing outings he has ever had the good fortune to enjoy." [NOTE: Thomas White

had previously visited the Bell Farm on Oct. 25, 1885, and signed the Visitors Register at that time.]

1886 – Aug. 12 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2, left column

" & Gossip: . . . . . About 15 o'clock on Friday last fire was discovered in a double barn near the Northern Bell Farm Cottage occupied by Geo Bingham. The barn contained two horses which were burned to death, and the barn with contents will be a complete loss."

1886 – Aug. 12 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __ left column

Indian Head. Visit of Mr. Sherriff Chapleau to Mrs. Major Bell.

"On Friday, at about 15 o'clock, fire was discovered in the double barn adjoining one of the Bell farm, northern division, cottages. Two horses in the barn were burned to death, and the building was burned to the ground. The cause of the fire is supposed to be Indians who were in the barn at noon, smoking."

"Major Bell and HJ Ebert went to Winnipeg on Friday, the 6th inst, and are to return the middle of next week."

"Duncan McArthur, president, Commercial Bank of Manitoba, and Prof. Hart, of Manitoba College, were visiting at Bell farm last week."

1886 – Aug. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. __, right column. - Bell Farming Company / Bell Farm Company established

"**INDIAN HEAD** The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company has been absorbed by the new organization, under the name of the Bell Farm Company (Limited). The latter has taken over the assets of the former and assumed its liabilities. The officers remain the same. The new name is in consonance with their property, the well-known Bell Farm."

1886 – Aug. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, centre column

Sir John A. & Lady Macdonald stopped briefly at Qu'Appelle on Friday, Aug. 20, at 2 pm, en route East. Also stopped for 15 minutes at Wolseley, and at Moosomin, but no stop at Indian Head to visit the Bell Farm; but he would have seen the Farm from the train as it travelled through the 10 mile wide farm.

1886 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
221	August 9, 1886	Caroline *R.* Chapleau	Ottawa	Ontario

222	August 14, 1886	G. Pearson Bell, M.D.	Cottingham, Hull, England	George Pearson Bell was a surgeon in Qu'Appelle and signed the Register the year he arrived from England. He later became a surgeon with the RNWMP.
223	"	George William Roberts	*Luntwaddine, Herfordshire,* England	
224	August 23, 1886	*Rod….* Matheson	Scotland	
225	"	Kingston	Erin	Ireland
226		……	*…Cavan,* Ireland	
227		*…..F.B. Dopping Hepenstel*	County Longford, Ireland	

1886 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
878	B 10	SCNWT 3/87 (86?)	Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Vs. R. Railton	1886-1888	Railton is the Municipal tax collector
1073	C 13	SCNWT 250/86	Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company Vs. R. Railton	1886-87	Railton is the Municipal tax collector
1085	E 13	SCNWT 263/86	R. Insinger Vs. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	1886-87	
1138	N 13	SCNWT 333/86	S.W. Caswell Vs. W. Bell	1886	Not sure if W. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else
1142	) 13	SCNWT 337/86	A.J. Osment Vs. J. Tutty	1885-1886	

1886 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments

229	Sept. 5, 1886	Joel Cook "The London Times"	Philadelphia, USA	Joel Cook was a Philadelphia based special correspondent for the London Times, financial editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger , author and later a US Congressman . Cook wrote about Louis Riel in his book "America, picturesque and descriptive".
230		George W.C. Cook	Philadelphia, USA	George William Childs Cook accompanied his father, Joel Cook, to the Bell Farm in 1886; born in 1870 and died in 1918 of pneumonia, in Philadelphia.
231		F.H. Brydges	Winnipeg	Manitoba: Brydges was the senior partner of FH Brydges and Sons, Land Insurance and Commission Agents, Winnipeg and married to Jean Crawford Allan, niece of Alexander Allan, Entry 282.
232		Anson	Shugborough, Stafford	England:

1886 – Sept. 6 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* – (published in 1906 – p.6) – Major Bell and horse race "Duchess Dolly":

> "TWENTY YEARS AGO TO-DAY – Items from the *Free Press* of this date, 1886 . . . . .The entries for the trials of the Winnipeg Field Trials club, which will be held Sept. 21, 22 and 23, are as follows: . . . . . Duchess Dolly, Major Bell, ... " (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

1886 – Sept. 6 – A *Canadian Tour: Entering the Great North-West Territory* – correspondent from *the Times*, p. 26 & 27 – references to flour mill and hiring 150 Sioux to help with harvest

portant.

It is on the rich soil of the Qu'Appelle Valley that the Canadian Pacific Railway passes for

ten miles through the "Bell Farm," which is believed to be the largest farm of contiguous territory in the world. It covers a surface of about 100 square miles, a few sections of school lands in parts of the tract, however, not being owned by the company. In the centre of the farm is the railway station of Indian Head, so called from a curious hill on one of the Indian reserves near it on the southward. This is about 1,730 miles west of Montreal, the lands having been carefully selected before the railway was built, but in anticipation of its construction, the route having been then located. This great farm contains 53,387 acres, bought from the Canadian Government, the railway, and the Hudson's Bay Company, so that there were thus obtained all the sections in the tract. The company was incorporated in 1882, by Canadian and British shareholders, the intention being to break up and prepare for cultivation about 20,000 acres, half of which were to be summer-fallowed every year, and at the end of five years to divide the estate into small farms and sell. The original capital was £120,000, and the shareholders have paid up £60,000, while £30,000 six per cent. debentures have been issued. No dividends have yet been paid, as large expenditures have been made according to the original plan, and it was thought best to re-invest profits rather than call additional share payments. The North-West rebellion last year interfered with the farm work, as the teams were all in use for transport service to the remote region where Riel's forces were located, and this year the drought has somewhat curtailed the wheat yield, but it is estimated at about 20 bushels to the acre, the threshing being yet incomplete. There were 5,000 acres under crop this year, and next season about 10,000 acres will be cultivated. Several farms have this season been sold off to newly-arrived colonists, the terms being about 24s. per acre for unimproved land, and £3 to £3 5s. for land that has been broken and back-set and got thoroughly ready for cultivation. The president of the company says that with fair crops hereafter they expect to put aside £5,000 sinking fund annually to redeem the debentures, and pay 8 per cent. dividends, while the disposal of the lands—the larger part of the tract being held on speculation—will give a return on capital account. They have built a flour mill, and expect hereafter to grind all their wheat, thus saving freight charges and being enabled to use the refuse in feeding cattle and pigs, these in future making from their sales an important item in the annual returns. The labour question, formerly an important element, both as to cost and the difficulty of obtaining labourers, has been solved by the employment of Indians, no less than 150 Sioux having this year aided in gathering the harvest. To assist the agricultural prospects of this section it is the intention next spring to open a college in a building just erected at a cost of about £2,400, and to receive pupils, under the name of the Albany College, called after the late Duke of Albany. This will be under the personal supervision of Professor Tanner, so well known in connexion with agriculture.

I made a survey of a part of this great farm, riding over the rich black soil and seeing the threshing processes. The wheat fields, just harvested, stretched as far as eye could see from one point of observation, while in another region the ploughing had turned the black soil over in the process of summer-fallowing, so that the square miles of land to be put down in next year's wheat crop would be ready for early seeding in April. There were 200

The Coming Metropolis

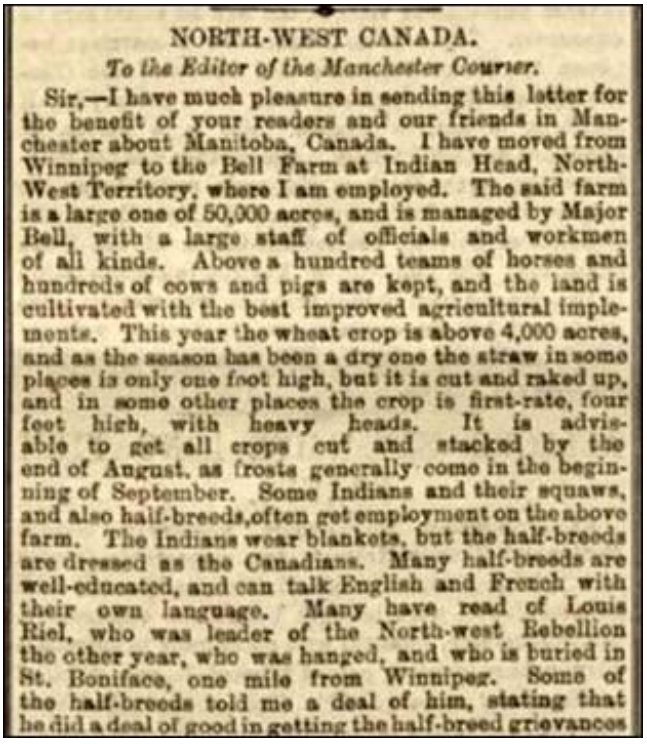
horses, 250 cattle, and 900 hogs on the estate, and the outfit of agricultural machinery embraced 45 reapers and binders, 73 ploughs, six mowers, 40 seeders, 80 harrows, and seven complete steam outfits for threshing. Major Bell, the manager, is one of the greatest farmers of America, of ripe experience and great ability. He tells me that in working the land, the very careful accounts kept show that it costs about 8s. per acre to originally break up and backset, while afterwards the ploughing for the crop is worth about 2s. per acre. The actual cost of producing wheat, including every expense, with interest on the cost of the land and allowance for wear and tear, is about 20s. per acre. The profit of the farm will consequently depend on the yield. They get about 3s. to 3s. 2½d. per bushel at the railway at present, while their freight charge to Montreal is 1s. 4d. per bushel. By turning the wheat into flour, for which there is a good demand in the extreme North-West, the profit is greater, and the refuse fattens the cattle and hogs, which are always in demand. His experience has shown that the proper method of treating this land is by summer-fallowing, so that a wheat crop is raised every second year. He has also divided the estate into farms of 200 acres each, finding this sub-division the best method of economical working, each small farm having its own outfit of horses and machinery, the whole being supervised by foremen, each of whom overlooks a number of these small farms. The buildings and equipment of this great farm are of the most complete character, and it is one of the institutions of Canada. The fertile soil has been found to extend to great depths in the Qu'Appelle Valley, the boring of artesian wells having brought up the same rich black loam as is on the surface from a depth of 300ft. in some places. The wheat belt does not extend a great distance further westward, however, but it is almost beyond comprehension to estimate the ultimate value as a wheat-producer of this vast fertile belt in Manitoba, Assiniboia, and Dakota, which covers a surface about 500 miles long by 250 miles in width. Here is grown the famous "No. 1 hard," which yields the best flour known, and this year has such plump berries that it weighs from 62lb. to 65lb. per bushel. Such is the "fertile belt" on the future development of which Canada bases such great hopes.

1886 – Sept. 13 – Letter from Wink to Bell re: loss of Ontario court case: MacDougall vs. Hall

Port Arthur lawyer A.S. Wink informs Major Bell that the court case in which he was involved has been lost in favour of MacDougall and Gehe (or Gehl ?). This relates to distribution of mining shares in the Port Arthur area – perhaps the Rabbit Mountain Mining Company in which Major Bell bought 2,200 shares in 1885.

1883 – Sept. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 - Impressive crop report at the Bell Farm in 1883 – (see text for Sept. 1883)

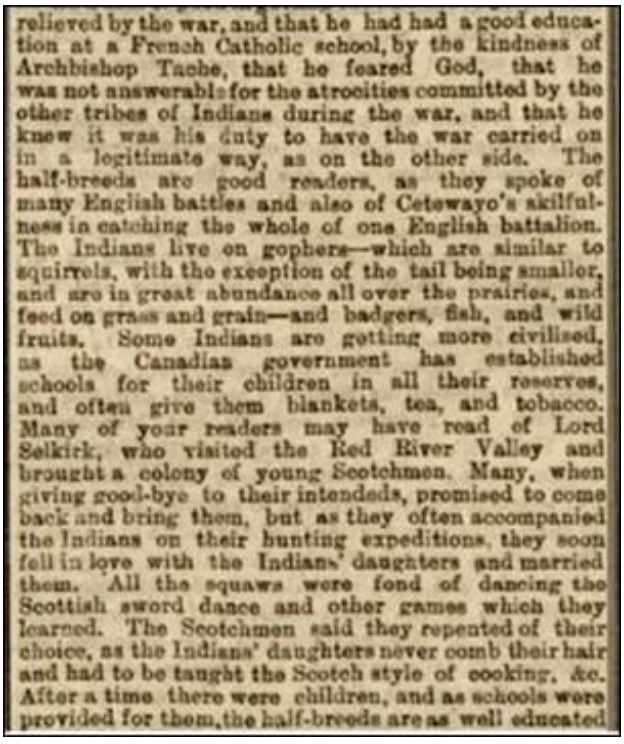
1886 – Sept. 28 – *The Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser,* p. 7 – Correspondence: North-West Canada – letter from Francis George Jefferson – Indigenous men and women and Métis work at the Bell Farm, as well as five deaf mutes:



NORTH-WEST CANADA.

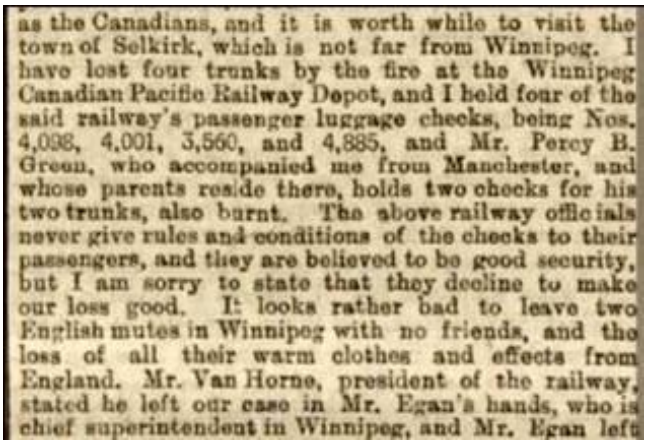
To the Editor of the Manchester Courier.

Sir,—I have much pleasure in sending this letter for the benefit of your readers and our friends in Manchester about Manitoba, Canada. I have moved from Winnipeg to the Bell Farm at Indian Head, North-West Territory, where I am employed. The said farm is a large one of 50,000 acres, and is managed by Major Bell, with a large staff of officials and workmen of all kinds. Above a hundred teams of horses and hundreds of cows and pigs are kept, and the land is cultivated with the best improved agricultural implements. This year the wheat crop is above 4,000 acres, and as the season has been a dry one the straw in some places is only one foot high, but it is cut and raked up, and in some other places the crop is first-rate, four feet high, with heavy heads. It is advisable to get all crops cut and stacked by the end of August, as frosts generally come in the beginning of September. Some Indians and their squaws, and also half-breeds, often get employment on the above farm. The Indians wear blankets, but the half-breeds are dressed as the Canadians. Many half-breeds are well-educated, and can talk English and French with their own language. Many have read of Louis Riel, who was leader of the North-west Rebellion the other year, who was hanged, and who is buried in St. Boniface, one mile from Winnipeg. Some of the half-breeds told me a deal of him, stating that he did a deal of good in getting the half-breed grievances

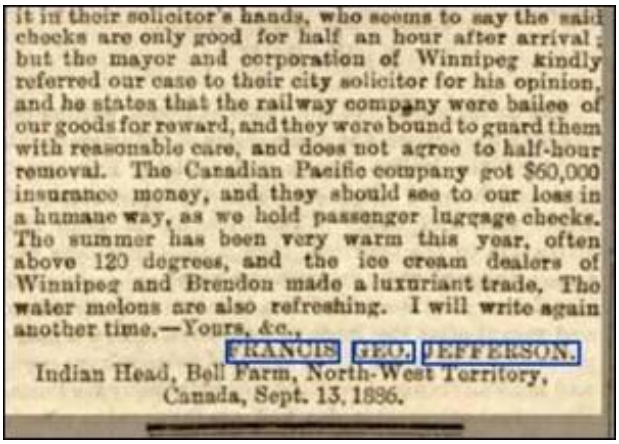


relieved by the war, and that he had had a good education at a French Catholic school, by the kindness of Archbishop Taché, that he feared God, that he was not answerable for the atrocities committed by the other tribes of Indians during the war, and that he knew it was his duty to have the war carried on in a legitimate way, as on the other side. The half-breeds are good readers, as they spoke of many English battles and also of Cetewayo's skilfulness in catching the whole of one English battalion. The Indians live on gophers—which are similar to squirrels, with the exception of the tail being smaller, and are in great abundance all over the prairies, and feed on grass and grain—and badgers, fish, and wild fruits. Some Indians are getting more civilised, as the Canadian government has established schools for their children in all their reserves, and often give them blankets, tea, and tobacco. Many of your readers may have read of Lord Selkirk, who visited the Red River Valley and brought a colony of young Scotchmen. Many, when giving good-bye to their intendeds, promised to come back and bring them, but as they often accompanied the Indians on their hunting expeditions, they soon fell in love with the Indians' daughters and married them. All the squaws were fond of dancing the Scottish sword dance and other games which they learned. The Scotchmen said they repented of their choice, as the Indians' daughters never comb their hair and had to be taught the Scotch style of cooking, &c. After a time there were children, and as schools were provided for them, the half-breeds are as well educated

Part 1 – Manchester Courier 92 kb Part 2 95 kb



as the Canadians, and it is worth while to visit the town of Selkirk, which is not far from Winnipeg. I have lost four trunks by the fire at the Winnipeg Canadian Pacific Railway Depot, and I hold four of the said railway's passenger luggage checks, being Nos. 4,038, 4,001, 3,560, and 4,885, and Mr. Percy B. Green, who accompanied me from Manchester, and whose parents reside there, holds two checks for his two trunks, also burnt. The above railway officials never give rules and conditions of the checks to their passengers, and they are believed to be good security, but I am sorry to state that they decline to make our loss good. It looks rather bad to leave two English mutes in Winnipeg with no friends, and the loss of all their warm clothes and effects from England. Mr. Van Horne, president of the railway, stated he left our case in Mr. Egan's hands, who is chief superintendent in Winnipeg, and Mr. Egan left



it in their solicitor's hands, who seems to say the said checks are only good for half an hour after arrival; but the mayor and corporation of Winnipeg kindly referred our case to their city solicitor for his opinion, and he states that the railway company were bailee of our goods for reward, and they were bound to guard them with reasonable care, and does not agree to half-hour removal. The Canadian Pacific company got $60,000 insurance money, and they should see to our loss in a humane way, as we hold passenger luggage checks. The summer has been very warm this year, often above 120 degrees, and the ice cream dealers of Winnipeg and Brendon made a luxuriant trade. The water melons are also refreshing. I will write again another time.—Yours, &c.,

FRANCIS GEO. JEFFERSON.

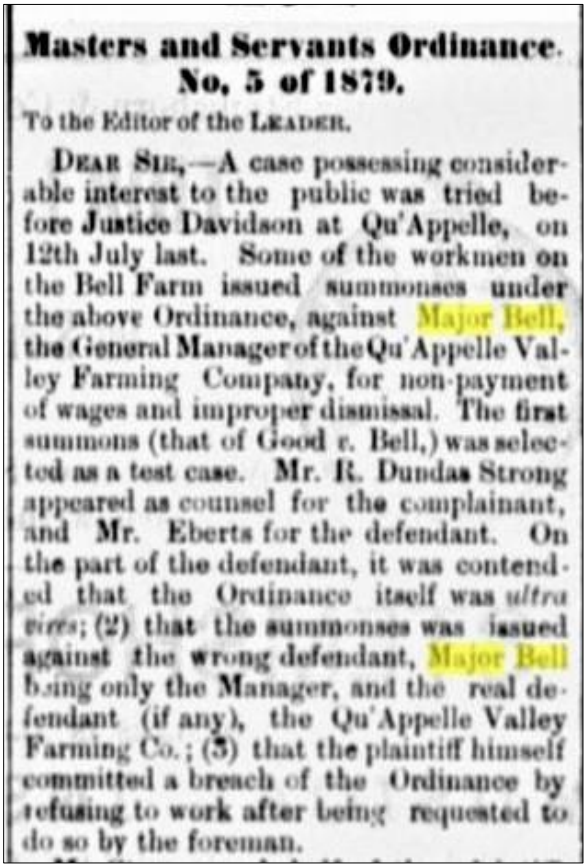
Indian Head, Bell Farm, North-West Territory, Canada, Sept. 13, 1886.

Part 3 58 kb Part 4 65 kb

1886 – Oct. 1 – Excerpt from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary (transcript by Hugh Henry)

Oct. 1 (in Alberta)
"I write to Major Bell saying I have told friends in England that he is obtaining L4 - 4 - per acre for land & is that correct --"

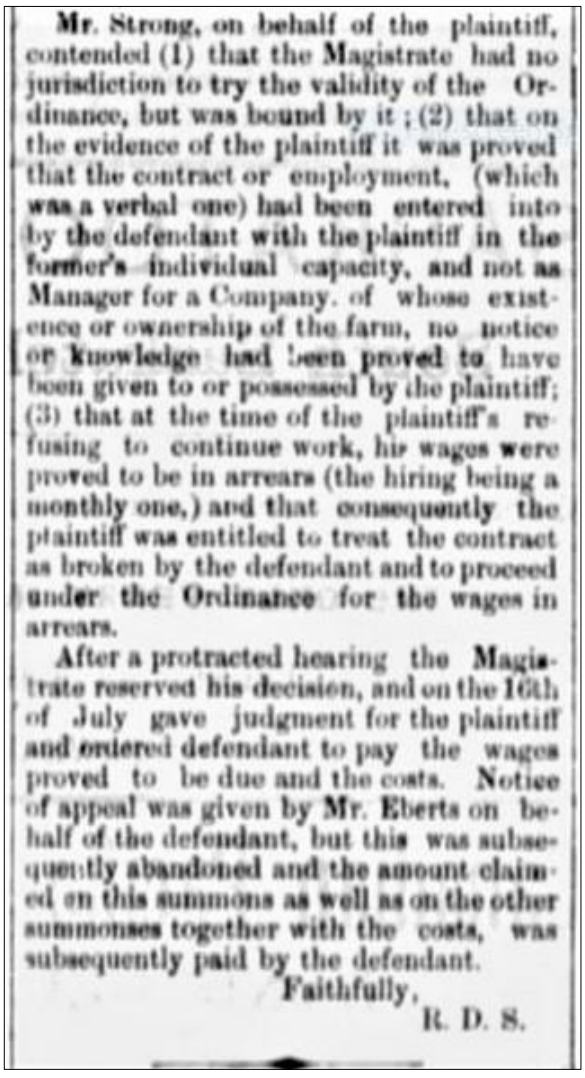
1886 – Oct. 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 3 - Law suit over non-payment of wages and improper dismissal: Good vs Bell – Good won



Masters and Servants Ordinance. No, 5 of 1879.

To the Editor of the LEADER.

DEAR SIR,—A case possessing considerable interest to the public was tried before Justice Davidson at Qu'Appelle, on 12th July last. Some of the workmen on the Bell Farm issued summonses under the above Ordinance, against Major Bell, the General Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, for non-payment of wages and improper dismissal. The first summons (that of Good v. Bell,) was selected as a test case. Mr. R. Dundas Strong appeared as counsel for the complainant, and Mr. Eberts for the defendant. On the part of the defendant, it was contended that the Ordinance itself was *ultra vires*; (2) that the summonses was issued against the wrong defendant, Major Bell being only the Manager, and the real defendant (if any), the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co.; (3) that the plaintiff himself committed a breach of the Ordinance by refusing to work after being requested to do so by the foreman.



Mr. Strong, on behalf of the plaintiff, contended (1) that the Magistrate had no jurisdiction to try the validity of the Ordinance, but was bound by it; (2) that on the evidence of the plaintiff it was proved that the contract or employment, (which was a verbal one) had been entered into by the defendant with the plaintiff in the former's individual capacity, and not as Manager for a Company, of whose existence or ownership of the farm, no notice or knowledge had been proved to have been given to or possessed by the plaintiff; (3) that at the time of the plaintiff's refusing to continue work, his wages were proved to be in arrears (the hiring being a monthly one,) and that consequently the plaintiff was entitled to treat the contract as broken by the defendant and to proceed under the Ordinance for the wages in arrears.

After a protracted hearing the Magistrate reserved his decision, and on the 16th of July gave judgment for the plaintiff and ordered defendant to pay the wages proved to be due and the costs. Notice of appeal was given by Mr. Eberts on behalf of the defendant, but this was subsequently abandoned and the amount claimed on this summons as well as on the other summonses together with the costs, was subsequently paid by the defendant.

Faithfully,

R. D. S.

1886 – Oct. 5 – *Regina Leader* p. 4 – Law Suit Insinger vs Bell Farm [Money Value: £100 = $500]

"**LAW. Before Mr. Justice Richardson.** On Tuesday the High Court of Justice of the Regina District, sat at Qu'Appelle Station. An interesting case was that of Insinger v. the Bell Farm. A cross action. Bell Farm suing for $150 for board. Insinger suing Bell Farm for breach of contract, he having paid £100 ($500) to learn farming, the Bell Farm having advertised that they had an Agricultural College. Scott, Q.C. for Insinger; J.M. Benson, for Bell Farm. Judgement reserved."

1886 – Oct. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* – Indian Head Fair results – published Dec 16.

The Bell Farm mentioned for the following:
Class A:

- General Purpose Stallion – Second
- 2 Year Old stallion, any class – Second
- General Purpose Team – Third
- Carriage Horse in harness – Second
- Filly One Year OId – Second
- Foal of 1886, First and Second
- Saddle Horse – First

Class D:

- Boar Over 1 Year – First

Class F:

- 20 Bushel Red Fyfe (Special by Major Bell) – prize provider

1886 – Oct. 26 – The NW Buffalo and Breeding Company Ltd formed.

Directors include: Bedson, Norquay, Bell, Howard and Eden: Source: Canada Gazette for 20 Nov. 1886, p. 1029

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?document_id_nbr=4491&image_id_nbr=107781&f=p&PHPSESSID=7b2cobbnnfu1n47op3u4hu3i03

1886 – Nov. 9 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __ – check for details

[Indian Head. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company vs Railton – court case

(no Osment ads for months and months.)]

1886 – Nov. 25 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

Indian Head. "Major and Mrs. Bell returned from the east on Monday."

1886 – Dec. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 right column – concerning Nov. 13, 1886 Town Council meeting:

"INDIAN HEAD COUNCIL Council met on the 13th inst, all present.

Moved by coun. Bunnell sec. by coun. Powell that a special committee of three be appointed to consider communication from Johnson & Forbes re Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs Railton. Carried."

And later:

"Moved by coun. Partridge, sec. by coun. Brooks that the chairman be authorized to enter appeal in the case, Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs Railton and that and order for three hundred dollars be drawn on the treasurer in his favour to make the necessary deposit for same. Carried."

1886 – Dec 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* report on Indian Head Fair results – See: Oct. 14, 1886.

1886 – Dec. 21 – Qu'Appelle Progress, p. __

Indian Head Council. "Moved by coun. Bundell sec. by coun. Powell that a special committee of three be appointed to consider communications from Johnson and Forbes re Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs. Railton. Carried." (Railton is the tax collector.)

"Moved by coun. Partridge, sec by coun Brooks that the chairman be authorized to enter an appeal in the case Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co., vs Railton and that an order for $300 be drawn on the treasurer in his favor to make the necessary deposit for same. Carried."

1886 – 31 Dec. – Annual Report for the Secretary of State: North-West Buffalo Company Ltd.

THE NORTH-WEST BUFFALO BREEDING COMPANY (Limited)

Incorporated 26th October, 1886. - Amount of Capital Stock, $75,000.

Number of Shares, 7,500.—Amount of each Share, $10.

Corporate Members :—Samuel Laurence Bedson, Warden of the Manitoba Penitentiary; the Hon. John Norquay; the Hon. Thomas Howard; William Robert Bell, Manager of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company; and Arthur Frederick Eden, Land Commissioner of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway Co.

First or Provisional Directors :—Samuel Laurence Bedson, John Norquay, Thomas Howard, William Robert Bell, and Arthur Frederick Eden.

Chief Place of Business :—Winnipeg, Man.

Objects of the Company :—(1.) The acquiring by purchase, lease, hire or otherwise of one or more cattle or other ranches, cattle or buffalo runs, also farm lands, timber lands and other real or personal property in the Province of Manitoba, in the North-West Territories and elsewhere in the Dominion of Canada, necessary or desirable in the interests or for the purposes of the proposed Company, and the working of said lands and timber, and the disposal of the same by sale, lease, hire or otherwise. (2.) The buying, selling, breeding, raising and otherwise dealing in thoroughbred or less than thoroughbred buffalo, also in cattle, horses, mules, sheep, and all other kind of live stock, in all the branches of said business, including the slaughter and the buying and selling in carcase or as butcher's meat of such of said species of animals as are used for such purposes. (3.) The raising, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in all kinds of grain and farm and dairy products, and generally the carrying on of all agricultural, farming and dairy operations, and the construction and carrying out of all buildings, mills, and other improvements considered necessary or advisable in the interest of the company. (4.) The purchasing or acquiring the stock, business, assets and property of any [illegible] Company or person carrying on business similar to the business of the propo[illegible] Company, and the carrying on of the business of such Company, or person so acquired, and engaging in any business or transaction within the corporate object of the proposed Company in partnership or in conjunction with any person or other Company. (5.) Generally the doing of all such things as are incidental to or are considered advisable for the purposes of the Company.

262 kb

1887

1887 – Rebellion Losses Claims and Report – Canadian Sessional Papers – check for details

1887 – Jan. 6 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> Indian Head. "Major Bell returned from the east on Tuesday's train."

1887 – Jan. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> Indian Head. "Mrs. And Major Bell left by Friday's train for a two month's trip to Eastern Canada and Europe."
>
> "Councillor E.J. Brooks was in Regina, last Friday, on business connected with the Bell farm tax suits."

1887 – Jan. 20 – *Ottawa Evening Journal*, p. 1 – Major and Mrs. Bell en route to England – Silver Mine

> "**A Silver Mine wanting Development** - Major W.R. Bell and wife, of Indian Head, NWT are in town. Mr. Bell who is the leading shareholder in the famous Bell Farm, leaves this week for England where he will organize a company of English capitalists for developing a silver mine at Rabbit Mountain, Port Arthur district."

1887 – Jan. 21 – *Montreal Daily Herald,* p. 1 – Major and Mrs. Bell in Ottawa en route to England – Rabbit Mountains silver mining development

> "**OTTAWA NEWS NOTES. – Political News – A New Silver Mine to be developed - . . . . .** Ottawa, Ont. Jan. 20 – Major W.R. Bell and wife, of Indian Head, N.W.T., are in town. Mr. Bell, who is the leading shareholder in the famous Bell farm, leaves this week for England where he will organize a company of English capitalists for developing a silver mine at Rabbit Mountains, Port Arthur district."

1887 – Jan. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 , third column

> "INDIAN HEAD COUNCIL. Jan. 18th 1887. . . . . Moved by councillors Partridge and Bunnell that council suspend general order of business in order to take up and application from the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. through their agent Mr. Dunlop for an extension of two weeks time to pay their municipal taxes and also hear a complaint from R.C. Rigby against his usage by the collector.
>
> "The council were in favor of extending the time as requested by Mr. Dunlop and suggested to the collector the advisability of restraining from harsh means until the expiration of the time asked for."
>
> And elsewhere:, p. 5, 4th column:

"INDIAN HEAD: "Major and Mrs. Bell are on their way to England. It is said the object of the Major's visit is to organize a company of English capitalists for the developing the silver mine at Rabbit Mountain." (Frank: this might be the Rabbit Mine, at Silver Mountain, near Thunder Bay: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Mountain_Station)

1887 – Jan. 29 – *Edmonton Bulletin,* p.1 – Major Bell off to England re: Rabbit Mountain silver mine

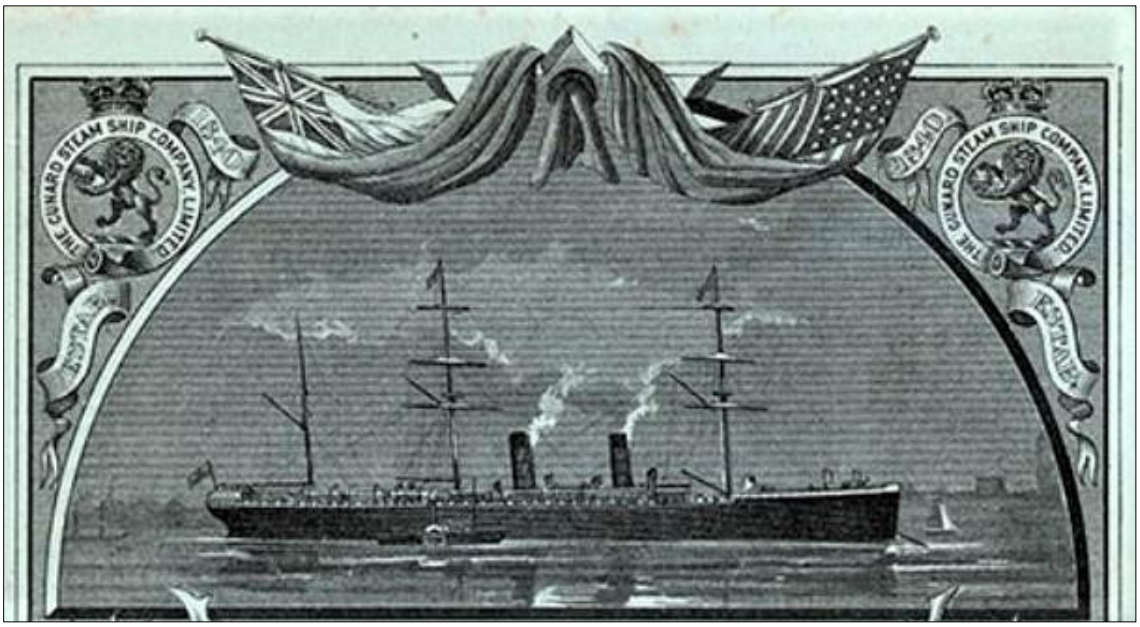
"**TELEGRAPHIC -** Winnipeg, Jan. 27, 1887. Major Bell has gone to England in connection with the development of the Rabbit Mountain silver mine."

1887 – Feb. 17 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

Indian Head. "Mr. Allan, of the Bell farm, was in town on Saturday and Sunday making arrangements to pay their taxes."

1887 – Feb. 26 – R.M.S. Aurania Passenger List – Liverpool to New York – Major Bell on board ship

"Saloon Passengers - # 6 – Major W.R. Bell" [Note: also refers to a Miss Bell – possibly should have been "Mrs." Bell.]



105 kb

1887 – March – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
233	March 13, 1887	M.F. O'Donoghue	Ottawa, Ontario	

1887 – March 3 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 3 – brickmaking at Qu'Appelle

"A brick yard is among the new industries to be started here in the spring."

1887 – March 4 – *London Daily Telegraph* – comment on the Bell Farm

The "Bell" Farm
Vol 1. p. 68:—

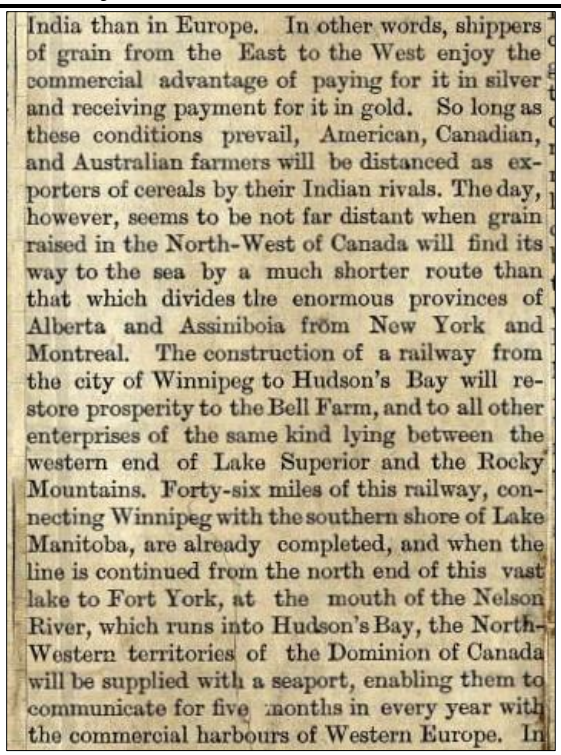
with reference to the above, the following appeared in the London "Daily Telegraph" of March 4th 1887:—

ENGLISH agriculturists may derive some consolation from the fact that, with the exception of those inhabiting the North-Western provinces of India, farmers are suffering under the same depression all over the world. It is, for instance, but five years since Major W. R. BELL acquired, in the spring of 1882, a vast block of land, consisting of sixty-four thousand acres or one hundred square miles, in Manitoba, about one hundred and thirty miles to the west of Winnipeg City. When the Marquis of LORNE, then Governor-General of Canada, visited the Bell Farm in 1883, he wrote of its promise in enthusiastic terms. "The Yankees boast," observed Lord LORNE, "that they can beat all creation, but here is something in the North-West of Canada that can beat the Yankees." The magnitude of the farming operations conducted by Major BELL, on behalf of the company over which he presided, had no parallel in any other part of the world. Visitors to the Bell Farm were astounded by driving for thirty miles through vast crops of wheat, oats, and flax, extending as far as the eye could reach. In 1884, Professor TANNER examined one piece of wheat, measuring fifteen hundred acres, which had been sown in two days. At the time of his visit, much of this gigantic wheatfield carried thirty-five bushels

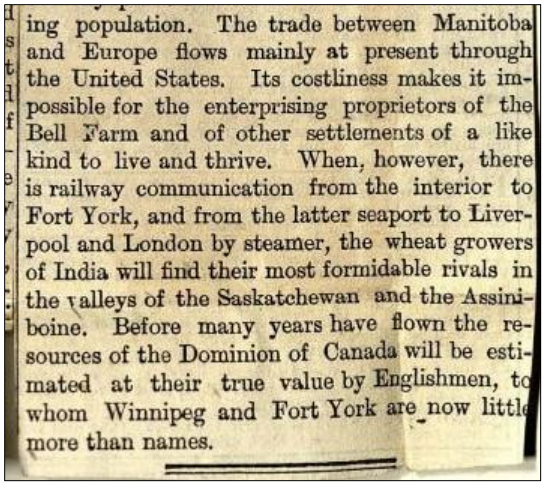
Part 1

per acre, and waved under the bright Canadian sun like a golden sea. In the regulation of this great undertaking discipline of the most rigid kind was observed. Major BELL inspected and superintended all the operations from day to day, and was assisted by one general foreman and four foremen of sections, to each of which a telephone connecting with the Major's residence extended. At eight o'clock in the evening orders were sent through the telephone to the foremen, giving instructions for the next day's work. One hundred self-binding reaping machines attacked the standing crops when harvest time came round, moving in battle array, gathering the grain into sheaves, binding them together, and casting them on the ground without a single mishap or failure. Three hundred horses and two hundred men were engaged last year in the cultivation of this territory. Vast granaries, a grain-elevator, and steam cornmills lent their assistance; and the Canadian Pacific Railway ran right through the settlement. Yet, with all these advantages, combined with a fine climate and a soil inexhaustible in fertility, the Bell Farm is a failure, because the low price of grain in the European markets, added to the distance of Manitoba from the great consuming populations of the world, entailed heavy losses upon the enterprising shareholders in this colossal agricultural speculation. The same fate has overtaken the owners of those vast farms in California and Texas which were once spoken of as likely to revolutionise the conditions under which wheat, barley, and oats

Part 2



India than in Europe. In other words, shippers of grain from the East to the West enjoy the commercial advantage of paying for it in silver and receiving payment for it in gold. So long as these conditions prevail, American, Canadian, and Australian farmers will be distanced as exporters of cereals by their Indian rivals. The day, however, seems to be not far distant when grain raised in the North-West of Canada will find its way to the sea by a much shorter route than that which divides the enormous provinces of Alberta and Assiniboia from New York and Montreal. The construction of a railway from the city of Winnipeg to Hudson's Bay will restore prosperity to the Bell Farm, and to all other enterprises of the same kind lying between the western end of Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains. Forty-six miles of this railway, connecting Winnipeg with the southern shore of Lake Manitoba, are already completed, and when the line is continued from the north end of this vast lake to Fort York, at the mouth of the Nelson River, which runs into Hudson's Bay, the North-Western territories of the Dominion of Canada will be supplied with a seaport, enabling them to communicate for five months in every year with the commercial harbours of Western Europe. In



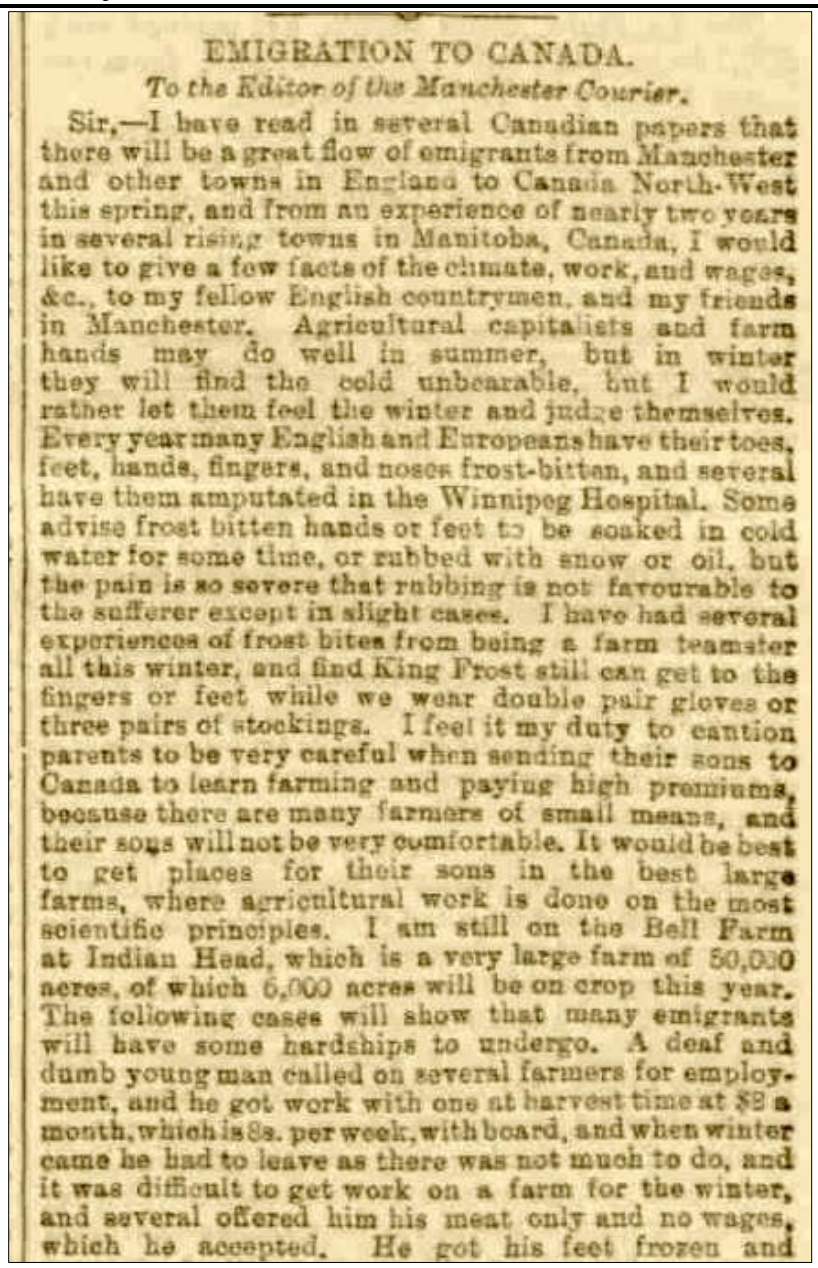
ing population. The trade between Manitoba and Europe flows mainly at present through the United States. Its costliness makes it impossible for the enterprising proprietors of the Bell Farm and of other settlements of a like kind to live and thrive. When, however, there is railway communication from the interior to Fort York, and from the latter seaport to Liverpool and London by steamer, the wheat growers of India will find their most formidable rivals in the valleys of the Saskatchewan and the Assiniboine. Before many years have flown the resources of the Dominion of Canada will be estimated at their true value by Englishmen, to whom Winnipeg and Fort York are now little more than names.

Part 3 (extract) Part 4 (extract)

1887 – March 17 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*, p. 1 – Major Bell back from England with investors for Rabbit Mtn silver mine (also I March 14, 1887 issue of Man. Daily Free Press, p. 1)

"**TELEGRAPHIC – Canada** – Ottawa, March 13 – Major Bell, of the Bell farm, Indian Head, is in the city. He has just returned from England where it is understood he succeeded in organizing a powerful company of English capitalists to work several rich mining limits near Rabbit Mountain, Port Arthur."

1887 – March 18 – *Manchester Courier & Lancashire General Advertiser,* p. 3 – Emigration to the West – letter from F.G. Jefferson, a Bell Farm employee: comments on severe winter weather and CPR travel problems

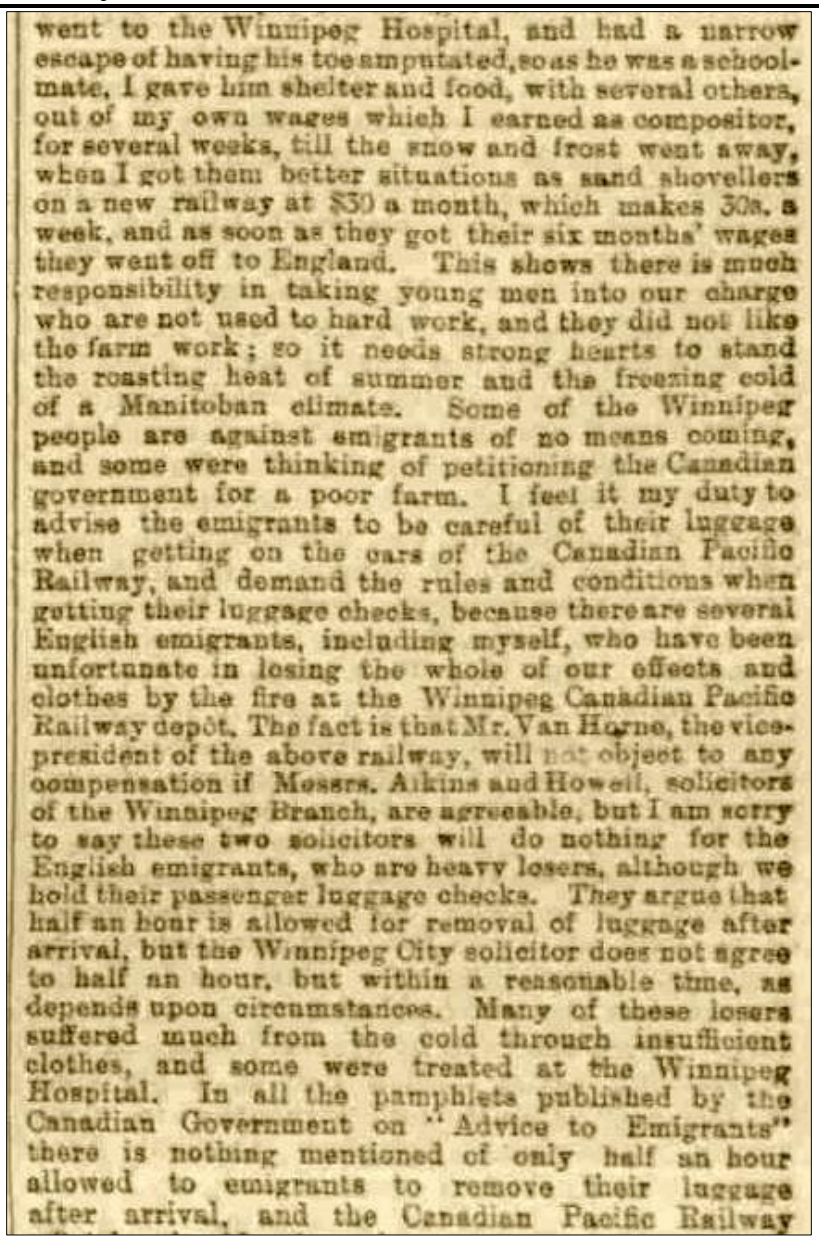


EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

To the Editor of the Manchester Courier.

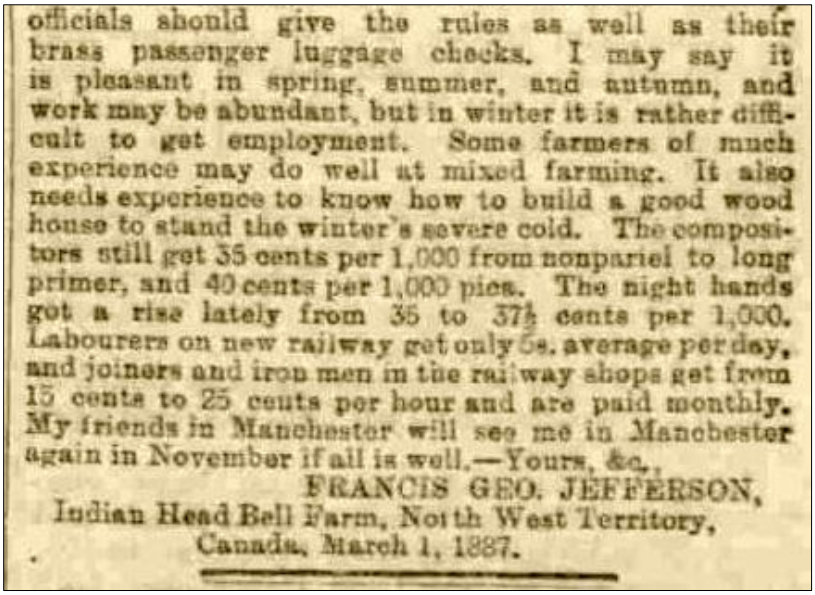
Sir,—I have read in several Canadian papers that there will be a great flow of emigrants from Manchester and other towns in England to Canada North-West this spring, and from an experience of nearly two years in several rising towns in Manitoba, Canada, I would like to give a few facts of the climate, work, and wages, &c., to my fellow English countrymen, and my friends in Manchester. Agricultural capitalists and farm hands may do well in summer, but in winter they will find the cold unbearable, but I would rather let them feel the winter and judge themselves. Every year many English and Europeans have their toes, feet, hands, fingers, and noses frost-bitten, and several have them amputated in the Winnipeg Hospital. Some advise frost bitten hands or feet to be soaked in cold water for some time, or rubbed with snow or oil, but the pain is so severe that rubbing is not favourable to the sufferer except in slight cases. I have had several experiences of frost bites from being a farm teamster all this winter, and find King Frost still can get to the fingers or feet while we wear double pair gloves or three pairs of stockings. I feel it my duty to caution parents to be very careful when sending their sons to Canada to learn farming and paying high premiums, because there are many farmers of small means, and their sons will not be very comfortable. It would be best to get places for their sons in the best large farms, where agricultural work is done on the most scientific principles. I am still on the Bell Farm at Indian Head, which is a very large farm of 50,000 acres, of which 6,000 acres will be on crop this year. The following cases will show that many emigrants will have some hardships to undergo. A deaf and dumb young man called on several farmers for employment, and he got work with one at harvest time at $2 a month, which is 8s. per week, with board, and when winter came he had to leave as there was not much to do, and it was difficult to get work on a farm for the winter, and several offered him his meat only and no wages, which he accepted. He got his feet frozen and

Part 1 85 kb



went to the Winnipeg Hospital, and had a narrow escape of having his toe amputated, so as he was a schoolmate, I gave him shelter and food, with several others, out of my own wages which I earned as compositor, for several weeks, till the snow and frost went away, when I got them better situations as sand shovellers on a new railway at $30 a month, which makes 30s. a week, and as soon as they got their six months' wages they went off to England. This shows there is much responsibility in taking young men into our charge who are not used to hard work, and they did not like the farm work; so it needs strong hearts to stand the roasting heat of summer and the freezing cold of a Manitoban climate. Some of the Winnipeg people are against emigrants of no means coming, and some were thinking of petitioning the Canadian government for a poor farm. I feel it my duty to advise the emigrants to be careful of their luggage when getting on the cars of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and demand the rules and conditions when getting their luggage checks, because there are several English emigrants, including myself, who have been unfortunate in losing the whole of our effects and clothes by the fire at the Winnipeg Canadian Pacific Railway depôt. The fact is that Mr. Van Horne, the vice-president of the above railway, will not object to any compensation if Messrs. Aikins and Howell, solicitors of the Winnipeg Branch, are agreeable, but I am sorry to say these two solicitors will do nothing for the English emigrants, who are heavy losers, although we hold their passenger luggage checks. They argue that half an hour is allowed for removal of luggage after arrival, but the Winnipeg City solicitor does not agree to half an hour, but within a reasonable time, as depends upon circumstances. Many of these losers suffered much from the cold through insufficient clothes, and some were treated at the Winnipeg Hospital. In all the pamphlets published by the Canadian Government on "Advice to Emigrants" there is nothing mentioned of only half an hour allowed to emigrants to remove their luggage after arrival, and the Canadian Pacific Railway

Part 2 92 kb



officials should give the rules as well as their brass passenger luggage checks. I may say it is pleasant in spring, summer, and autumn, and work may be abundant, but in winter it is rather difficult to get employment. Some farmers of much experience may do well at mixed farming. It also needs experience to know how to build a good wood house to stand the winter's severe cold. The compositors still get 35 cents per 1,000 from nonpariel to long primer, and 40 cents per 1,000 pica. The night hands got a rise lately from 35 to 37½ cents per 1,000. Labourers on new railway get only 5s. average per day, and joiners and iron men in the railway shops get from 15 cents to 25 cents per hour and are paid monthly. My friends in Manchester will see me in Manchester again in November if all is well.—Yours, &c.,

FRANCIS GEO. JEFFERSON,
Indian Head Bell Farm, North West Territory,
Canada, March 1, 1887.

Part 3 51 kb

1887 – March 24 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"Indian Head. Major Bell will be back next week from England."

1887- April – *Prince Albert Times*, p. 4. – Merit of growing flax in Saskatchewan

"**AGRICULTURAL – Flax Culture. –** In reply to a question from "H.B." Prince Albert, asking for information about the culture of flax, the *Nor'-West Farmer"* says: - "The first thing he wants to know is whether flax can be grown here, and if so, to what advantage. It has been grown successfully at Gleichen, but Major Bell at Indian Head, could perhaps tell a different story. A slight summer frost would spoil a season's crop, and though for cattle a patch ought to be cultivated on every farm, it is not so profitable as some people allege. If sown, as it often is, on new breaking, it will grow itself, but it will prevent the soil from rotting properly, and so spoil the land for several crops afterward. . . . . ."

1887 – April 14 - *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __ – Tanner in the NWT for the 7th time.

"At the Queens: . . . E.H. Hill, London, Prof. Tanner, W.S. Redpath, London, England; . . . . "

"Professor Tanner is in Town. He is locating a number of immigrants in this vicinity. Particulars in another column." [(see below) E.H. Hill also there.]

his newspaper » Browse all newspapers »

Prof. Tanner, W. S. Redpath, London, England; J. P. Taylor, Indian Head.

PROF. TANNER.

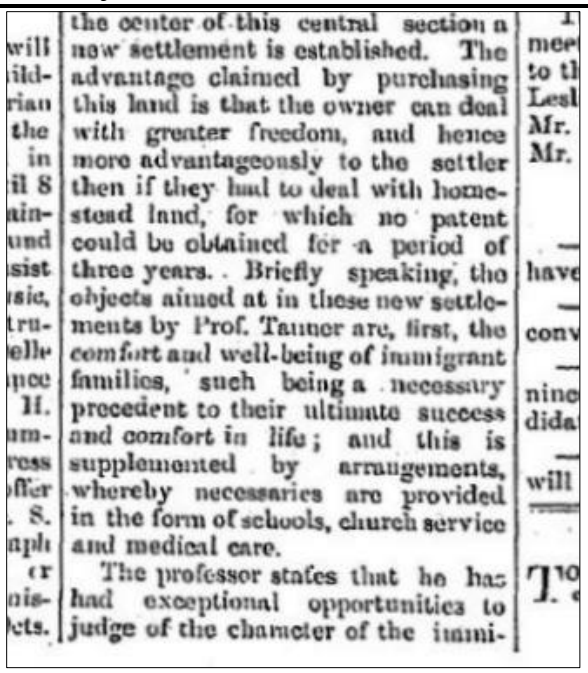
Professor Henry Tanner, of London, England, examiner in agriculture under the government department of science, South Kensington, is visiting the Northwest for the seventh time.

The object of the Professor's visit is to establish a new form of colonization for immigrant families under two distinct systems. In the first instance a settlement is to be established in the immediate vicinity of Qu'Appelle, whereby a number of immigrant families may be accommodated upon blocks of 40 acres of land each with cottage suitable for the conveniences and decencies of life, having four rooms. In addition to this, four acres of land will be prepared and sowed in advance of their arrival, so that when they reach their future homes they will not only find a convenient and comfortable house awaiting them but also crops of wheat, barley, potatoes and other necessaries, so far advanced as to simply want gathering for use. By this means they would be provided with 12 months supply of vegetable food. It is also intended that the immigrant families shall have a cow, pigs and poultry, either by their own means or have them provided for them. The primary objects aimed at are not only placing immigrant

Part 1 115 kb

familica in the Northwest under such conditions as to provide for their comfort, but to place them in neighborhoods where they can find steady employment and besides this to secure them schools, Sunday services and medical attendance. The second plan which the professor is about to carry out differs but slightly from others under the Dominion Lands Act. The only variation appears to be that before the immigrant families leave England their applications are made for quarter sections in accordance with the requirement of the Dominion Lands Act and these quarters sections are secured to them on the Government terms. The details of this plan involve 16 immigrant families being grouped in four free homestead sections contiguous to each other, and in order to make their conditions of settlement the more favorable. the central section which lies between the above mentioned four sections homestead land is bought from the owners, whether railway companies or others, and at

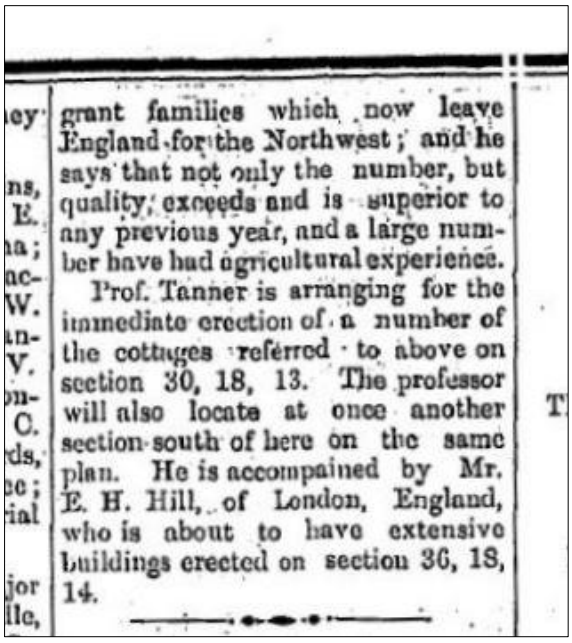
Part 2 68 kb



the center of this central section a new settlement is established. The advantage claimed by purchasing this land is that the owner can deal with greater freedom, and hence more advantageously to the settler then if they had to deal with homestead land, for which no patent could be obtained for a period of three years. Briefly speaking, the objects aimed at in these new settlements by Prof. Tanner are, first, the comfort and well-being of immigrant families, such being a necessary precedent to their ultimate success and comfort in life; and this is supplemented by arrangements, whereby necessaries are provided in the form of schools, church service and medical care.

The professor states that he has had exceptional opportunities to judge of the character of the immi-

Part 3 35 kb



grant families which now leave England for the Northwest; and he says that not only the number, but quality, exceeds and is superior to any previous year, and a large number have had agricultural experience.

Prof. Tanner is arranging for the immediate erection of a number of the cottages referred to above on section 30, 18, 13. The professor will also locate at once another section south of here on the same plan. He is accompained by Mr. E. H. Hill, of London, England, who is about to have extensive buildings erected on section 36, 18, 14.

Part 4 46 kb

1887 – April 14 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Tanner house construction and Bell Farm director Allan on site

"Prof. Tanner, of England, arrived at Qu'Appelle a few days ago, and has let the contract for a dwelling house, etc.,, five miles west of here, on the Bell Farm" [Frank's Note" "west" might be a typo, as the Tanner house was built east of Qu'Appelle.]

And

" Mr. W.R. Allan, a Bell farm director, paid the village a hasty visit on Tuesday night, returning by the morning train. It is now rumoured that some 4,000 acres will be sown and the arrearages of wages paid at once."

1887 – April 14 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette"* – Tanner's New Scheme for settlement

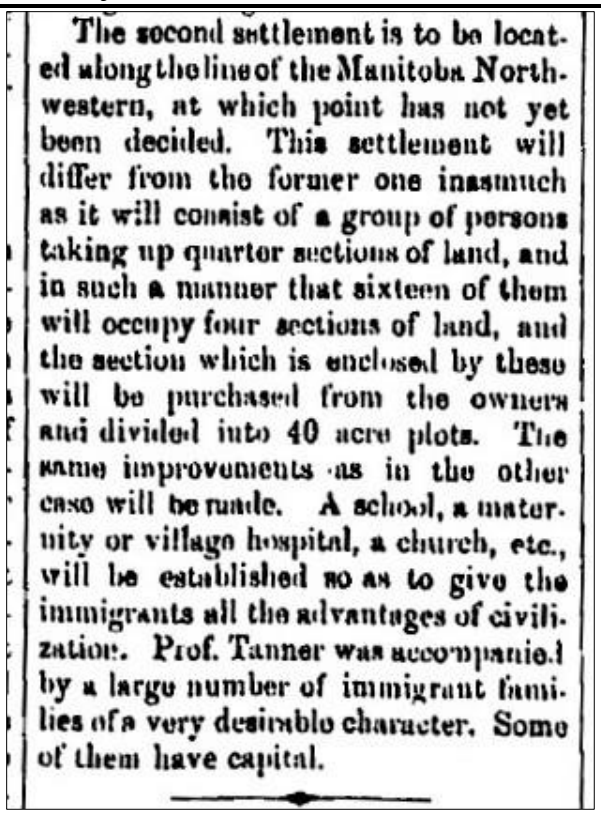
A New Scheme.

Professor Tanner, the well-known agriculturist and promoter of immigration to this country has a new scheme on hand for the promotion of emigration to Manitoba and the Northwest. His intention is to establish a couple of settlements in the Province and Territories, and to keep the settlers near together to farm claims. The arrangement is a new one, the main object being to secure the comfort and well-being of the immigrant families. At the same time the arrangements will be carried out upon a commercial basis so as to do away with all approach to charitable aid, and while doing so secure to the immigrants advantages which have hitherto been very difficult to attain. Two settlements are being organized in each of which arrangements will be made in advance of the arrival of the immigrant families so that a decent cottage with the proper requirements for prosecuting farming operations, etc., on a small scale will be provided.

The cottage will consist of four rooms, and will be quite commodious. Each holding will consist of forty acres of land four of which will be placed under crop at once and be ready by the time the immigrants arrive. Two acres will be sown with wheat, one with oats and the fourth with peas, potatoes, garden vegetables, etc. One colony or settlement will be established in the immediate neighborhood of Qu'-Appelle, where it is thought plenty of employments can be secured such as farm laboring, etc. Forty acres will be alloted to each family and the total charges, including the cost of the food supply and the dwelling, will be about equal one day's wage for a week's occupation. They will only be tenants, but will have the option of purchasing the land within a period of some three years if they elect to do so. By the expiration of the three years, if they find forty acres too little, they will be in an excellent position to take up government homesteads. Such settlements, says Prof. Tanner, practically become nurseries for preparing immigrant families with very limited means for adapting themselves to the requirements, of the country, and gaining experience, which is likely to be valuable for their further success, and so increasing their stock in proportion for a larger holding.

Part 1 139 kb

Part 2 134 kb



The second settlement is to be located along the line of the Manitoba Northwestern, at which point has not yet been decided. This settlement will differ from the former one inasmuch as it will consist of a group of persons taking up quarter sections of land, and in such a manner that sixteen of them will occupy four sections of land, and the section which is enclosed by these will be purchased from the owners and divided into 40 acre plots. The same improvements as in the other case will be made. A school, a maternity or village hospital, a church, etc., will be established so as to give the immigrants all the advantages of civilization. Prof. Tanner was accompanied by a large number of immigrant families of a very desirable character. Some of them have capital.

Part 3 111 kb

1887 – April 18 – *Winnipeg Free Press,* p. __

Reports that William Rae Allan, a Bell Farm Director, visited the Bell Farm; and also that Professor Tanner was in the region and was having a house built about 5 miles west of "the village" (Indian Head) – still within the original Bell Farm boundaries. (Allan was appointed a Director on 19 May 1886, along with other Directors of the newly-incorporated Bell Farm Company: Robert William Bell, William Lewis Boyle, Duncan McArthur, Thomas Howard, Ralph Thomas Rokeby, and Hermann Joseph Eberts)

"Mr. W.R. Allan, a Bell farm director, paid the village a hasty visit on Tuesday night, returning by the morning train. It is now rumoured that some 4,000 acres will be sown and the arrearages of wages paid at once.

Prof. Tanner, of England, arrived at Qu'Appelle a few days ago, and has let the contract for a dwelling house, etc.; five miles west of here, on the Bell Farm."

1887 – April 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __ – brickmaking at Qu'Appelle

"We learn that brickmaking is to be an accomplished fact here this summer. An excellent variety of clay having been found on Samuel Henry's place about seven miles south of the town. We believe the brick are to be laid down at a price to make brick building quite as cheap as frame and certainly more durable as well as more attractive in appearance. May good fortune attend the venture. Mr. J. Doolittle is the prime mover in this enterprise."

1887 – April 21 – Qu'Appelle Vidette, p. __

Indian Head. "Major and Mrs. Bell have returned from England."

"Mr. Dunlop, secretary-treasurer of the Bell farm, has returned from Winnipeg and looks none the worse for his trip."

"The Bell farm commenced seeding on Monday with twenty-three teams. They are going to put 5,000 acres under crop. Everything is running smoothly and the Major is happy and sure of a good crop. All hands have been paid up and grumblers are at a loss what to grumble at now."

1887 – April 28 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

Indian Head. "The Bell farm will finish seeding this week with an acreage of a little over 5,000."

1887 – April 28 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __

[Sir John Lister Kaye's Farm at Balgonie, 7,000 acres, 15 miles west of Qu'Appelle; Sykes Farm Lands (Edgeley) 20,000 acres. – see below]

Sykes Farm Lands.—Mr. Sykes, a Manchester merchant, purchased from the Canadian Pacific Railway Land Co. 20,000 acres, all the odd

sections in township 19, ranges 15 and 16. The manager, Mr. Cameron, resides at Edgeley, the headquarters of the farm, 5 miles west and north of Qu'Appelle, Mr. Sykes has a steam plough in use which has been so far a great success. The idea is to break and cultivate a certain number of acres on each of the sections and sell from prices ranging from $7.00 to $12.00 per acre. Edgeley district is well worth a visit, for there is situated some of the most flourishing farms in the North West. Mr. Cameron has this year upwards of 1000 acres in crop.

Webster's Farm.—Situated 5 miles south of Qu'Appelle, comprises three sections of land, (1920 acres). He is his own manager, and has, considering the past three unfavorable seasons, been very successful.

Sir John Lyster Kaye's Farm.—Situated near Balgonie, 15 miles west of the town of Qu'Appelle, comprises 7000 acres. He has large and extensive buildings upon the farm and will have this year 1000 acres in crop.

Other large farms, but on a smaller scale to those mentioned are in this vicinity; all are, if not as prosperous as they expected to be, hopeful of a bright future. The prosperity of the town and its surroundings are assured our hope is that this little pamphlet may be the means of bringing some of those new comers from the old country who are still undecided where to settle in this vast country. They can be assured that should they come to Qu'Appelle every assistance will be rendered in getting them located, and I am sure they would never feel that they were strangers in a strange land.

Also: cottages being built for Professor Tanner:

> "Mr. J.H. MacCaul has the contract for building the cottages for the immigrants under Professor Tanner's scheme. There are also two houses to be built for parties connected with Prof. Tanner, the contracts for which have not yet been awarded."

And this summary of Tanner's Settlement:

> "***Professor Tanner's Colonization Settlement***. – Professor H. Tanner, Government Examiner in Agriculture in the Department of Science, South Kensington, London, England, is now engaged in establishing in the immediate vicinity a settlement whereby a number of immigrant families may be accommodated upon blocks of 40 acres of land in comfortable cottages, together with schools, churches and medical attendance. Special care will be taken to secure immigrants of unexceptionable character, and with a practical knowledge of farm life and its requirements. It is hoped, and expected, that this settlement will greatly add to the material growth of Qu'Appelle, and provide a class of steady and efficient agricultural employees."

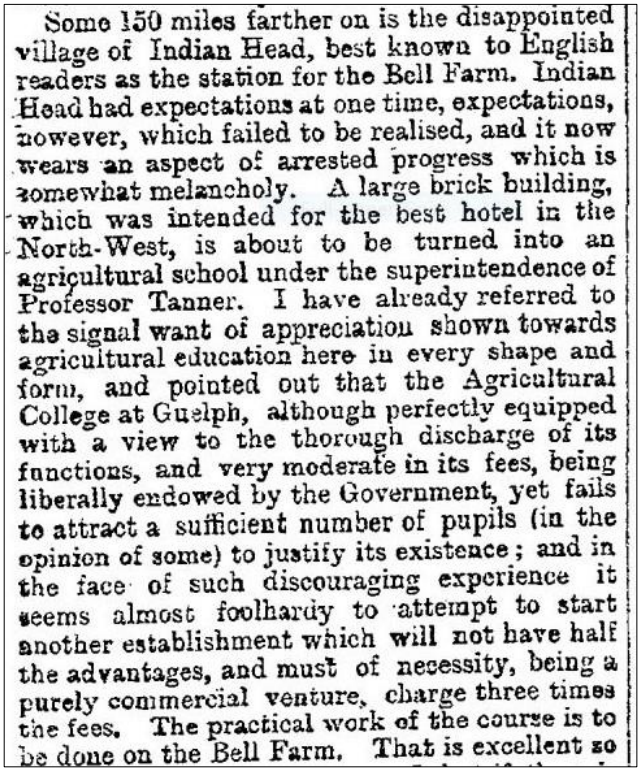
1887 – May 1 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – 2,000 Acres to be seeded – check for details – No paper on this date

1887 – May 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Bell Farm and court of revision

"INDIAN HEAD – The Indian Head Court of Revision had very little to do further than some slight alterations in the Bell Farm Company's assessment."

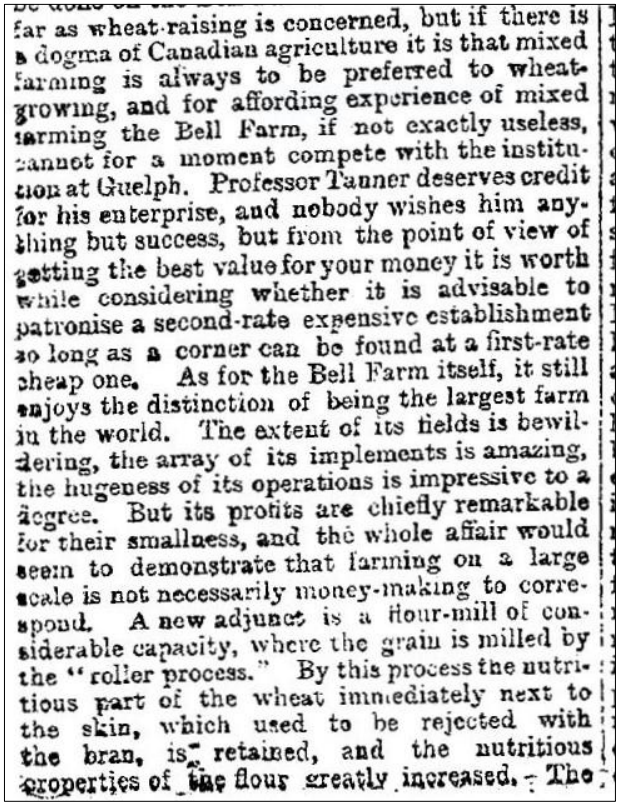
1887 – May 8 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. __ - Bell Farm crop report – check for details – no issue readily available

1887 – May 7 – *Glasgow Herald* – general comments on the Bell Farm and Professor Tanner's Agricultural College



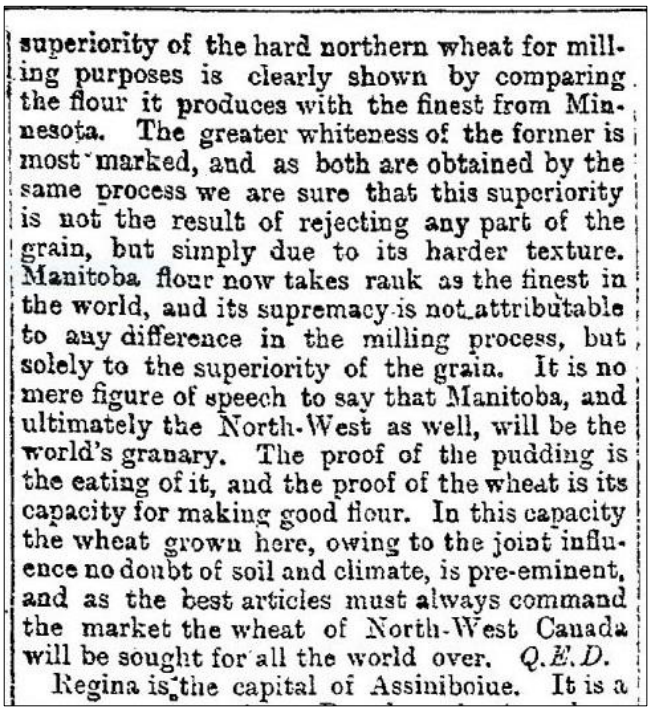
Some 150 miles farther on is the disappointed village of Indian Head, best known to English readers as the station for the Bell Farm. Indian Head had expectations at one time, expectations, however, which failed to be realised, and it now wears an aspect of arrested progress which is somewhat melancholy. A large brick building, which was intended for the best hotel in the North-West, is about to be turned into an agricultural school under the superintendence of Professor Tanner. I have already referred to the signal want of appreciation shown towards agricultural education here in every shape and form, and pointed out that the Agricultural College at Guelph, although perfectly equipped with a view to the thorough discharge of its functions, and very moderate in its fees, being liberally endowed by the Government, yet fails to attract a sufficient number of pupils (in the opinion of some) to justify its existence; and in the face of such discouraging experience it seems almost foolhardy to attempt to start another establishment which will not have half the advantages, and must of necessity, being a purely commercial venture, charge three times the fees. The practical work of the course is to be done on the Bell Farm. That is excellent so

Part 1 222 kb



far as wheat-raising is concerned, but if there is a dogma of Canadian agriculture it is that mixed farming is always to be preferred to wheat-growing, and for affording experience of mixed farming the Bell Farm, if not exactly useless, cannot for a moment compete with the institution at Guelph. Professor Tanner deserves credit for his enterprise, and nobody wishes him anything but success, but from the point of view of getting the best value for your money it is worth while considering whether it is advisable to patronise a second-rate expensive establishment so long as a corner can be found at a first-rate cheap one. As for the Bell Farm itself, it still enjoys the distinction of being the largest farm in the world. The extent of its fields is bewildering, the array of its implements is amazing, the hugeness of its operations is impressive to a degree. But its profits are chiefly remarkable for their smallness, and the whole affair would seem to demonstrate that farming on a large scale is not necessarily money-making to correspond. A new adjunct is a flour-mill of considerable capacity, where the grain is milled by the "roller process." By this process the nutritious part of the wheat immediately next to the skin, which used to be rejected with the bran, is retained, and the nutritious properties of the flour greatly increased. The

Part 2 205 kb



superiority of the hard northern wheat for milling purposes is clearly shown by comparing the flour it produces with the finest from Minnesota. The greater whiteness of the former is most marked, and as both are obtained by the same process we are sure that this superiority is not the result of rejecting any part of the grain, but simply due to its harder texture. Manitoba flour now takes rank as the finest in the world, and its supremacy is not attributable to any difference in the milling process, but solely to the superiority of the grain. It is no mere figure of speech to say that Manitoba, and ultimately the North-West as well, will be the world's granary. The proof of the pudding is the eating of it, and the proof of the wheat is its capacity for making good flour. In this capacity the wheat grown here, owing to the joint influence no doubt of soil and climate, is pre-eminent, and as the best articles must always command the market the wheat of North-West Canada will be sought for all the world over. *Q.E.D.*

Regina is the capital of Assiniboine. It is a

Part 3 197 kb

1887 – May 12 – Hattie Liggett, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Liggett, died of bronchitis in one of the Bell Farm Cottages. Although some of Bessie Liggett's account (written in 1956, when Bessie was 75 years old) is based on partially erroneous information, especially that relating to Major Bell's farming operations, I suspect that her account of family life was more accurate, likely as she remembered or was told by her parents. The following extract details their life while resident on the Bell Farm from 1886 to 188___):

(**PAGE 8**) ". . . . I think it must have been in the spring of 1886 that we moved to the Bell Farm cottage. Though I do not remember the Rebellion of '85, my father, like practically every man in the country was busy in connection with it. There being no railways to the North, where the trouble was, supplies had to be transported by team. Father, like many others, took his ox team and wagon (or sleigh) on "the transport".

"The Bell Farm" was started by an English man, Major Bell. He bought quantities of land. His idea, evidently, was to transplant a land holding idea from England and carry it out as estates were managed in England. He built a big house - for those days it was quite a mansion. That was his residence and was always spoken of as "The Big House". The property was dotted with cottages for the farm help. Two cottages and a large barn were in a group – possibly to look after one section. The one in which we lived was situated to the south east of the barn, the other north east of the barn directly north of (**PAGE 9**) ours. These cottages were just off the townsite, to north-west, very near to where the present hospital stands.

I have no idea how many of these groups of cottages Major Bell had but no doubt they were very numerous. He had a foreman Mr. Sherwood, who supervised on horse back. Mrs. Bell had her carriage and pair with her coachman to drive her around. It seems to me it was a double seated (sort of phaeton) vehicle. A any rate she rode in state in the back seat and was popularly (though sarcastically) known as "Lady Bell". Had she been a different type how well beloved she might have been. Perhaps she was one of those persons who simply do not know how to adjust to a new environment.

I imagine that at first after we went to the Bell Farm everything was quite satisfactory. The cottage consisted of a large kitchen, a living room and two bedrooms. After living in one room, Mother must have appreciated having more space for her family. The farm furnished horses and machinery and paid wages to the men. At first, my parents were able to get along nicely on Father's wages. However, I was not long until Major Bell got into financial difficulties and wages were not forthcoming. This would have been bad enough under ordinary circumstances, but the winter of 1886-87 Hattie (3 yr. May '87) was very ill. I have heard Mother say the lamp was never out for ten weeks that winter. The trouble was a gathering in the left side – so near the heart that that organ was pushed over to the right side of the chest. The nearest doctor was in Qu'Appelle. He finally lanced it and the quantity of pus that drained from it was almost unbelievable. To the Doctor's surprise (he had been afraid that she would die during the lancing) Hattie recovered. Of course she had not walked for weeks and (**PAGE 110**) it was weeks more before she began to learn to walk all over again. Then we all took bronchitis and of course Hattie took it too. She did not have any strength to resist the disease and on May 12, 1887, she passed away. What a dreadfully hard time for our parents! On Father's wages it would have been difficult to get any dainties for her. But the wages were not forth coming for the barest necessities of life. I remember

the little spray Mother made. To this day wild maiden hair fern and lily-of-the-valley remind me of the spray Mother arranged that day.

In a house with five children, one a small baby, and another a very ill little 2-year old, there was certainly an opportunity to show kindness. However, likely Mrs. Bell never thought of it. Under the circumstances she must have known about Hattie's long, long illness. The day after Hattie died Mrs. Bell called and offered to do anything she could. My mother replied: "Thank you, Mrs. Bell, but she doesn't need anything now."

I do not remember so much of what took place during my early childhood as many others do regarding their earlier years. However, here and there incidents seem to be tucked away in my memory. One of these was in connection with the morning when my brother was born. The night before, Annie had been sent to spend the with a friend (Reason quite obvious now). Grandma Boyd (everyone spoke of her so) had been called, and in the morning we were introduced to our new baby brother. Of course, Annie would go directly to school from where she had spent the night. I remember the excitement when Sadie left for school. Somehow we had no way of contacting Annie before school. (Perhaps we were late, as naturally (**PAGE 11**) things would be a bit disorganized at home that morning). At any rate, I remember how slow the time went, and I was fairly bursting to tell Annie the wonderful news, which had o wait for recess.

The new baby was named William Andrew (Willie). Father and Mother (Papa and Mama we called them then). Father and Mother each had a brother, William, and Father's youngest brother was Andrew. What a good baby he was! I do not remember much about him as a baby, of course, but I know we all adored him. I have heard Mother say that with Hattie's long illness, she did not know how she could have managed only that Willie was such a good baby.

By this time a Presbyterian church has been built. It was a stupendous financial venture for so small a congregation. It was a nice little brick building capable of seating 200 or more. The church debt hung over the heads of the members year after year. In fact by the time the property was clear of debt, it was bursting at the seams and a new church was necessary. The new Presbyterian Church was opened in 1906. It is still doing yeoman duty for the United Church of Canada." Later handwritten note at top of page 11: "*The Bell Cottage that Dad was born in was the one the people lived in who ran the creamery years ago. Beth.*"

1887 – May 19 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __ – Death of Hattie Liggett (on Bell Farm)

"The four-year-old daughter of Mr. Liggett died on Saturday evening after a lingering illness of six months> She was buried on Monday."

1887 – May 12 – June 10 , p. __ – Diary of Sir John Lister-Kaye – proposed amalgamation of the Bell Farm with the Alberta & Assiniboia Land & Coal Co. – [transcripts and comments from Hugh Henry, 2018]

Thursday May 12th
See Brydges about Bell Farm, Canada Co., is a successful Land Co.

Saturday May 14th

To see Brydges 103 Leadenhall St. about Bell Farm – draw scheme of Amalgamation.

Sunday May 15th
Write out amalgamation scheme of Bell Farm & Alberta & Assiniboia Land & Coal Co.
[Alberta, etc. Co. did not exist; was Lister Kaye 'scheme'.]

Monday May 16th
See Brydges & leave amalgamation scheme with him, . . . agrees to my scheme. I send papers off to Thomas to print.

Tuesday May 17th
Get Amalgamation scheme papers printed clear by evening, send off to various people.

Wednesday May 18th
See Renshaw & Brydges about Scheme. Luncheon with Sir G. Warrender, . . . then to Sir G. about Am. Scot. Inv. Co. who hold L30,000 of Bell Farm Debentures.

Saturday May 21st
See Davies Cooke, arrange completed plan of Prospectus showing amalgamation of Bell Farm & Alberta & Assiniboia Co's interests.

Monday May 23rd
Meeting at 2.oc at Can. Gov. Offices – Mr. Sanford Fleming, Brydges, Renshaw – talk over scheme. To see Thomas about the printed Prospectus, get it at 5.15.

Wednesday May 25th
. . . to see Mr. Sanford Fleming, he approves of my plan drawn up & wishes me to eliminate the printed Estimate of concessions value. He will write Sir G. Stephen & Sir D. Smith advocating extension of my agreements & suggesting they should consult as to his coming on Board.
Cooke comes, has seen Mortimer (Broker) makes suggestions for Prospectus.

Thursday May 26th
See Brydges ask him to write to Mr. Sanford Fleming to suggest that a Director of Bk of Montreal should come on Board so as to make three in Canada & three in England I to make the quorum of four in whichever country I am. He approves and writes.
See Roger Mortimer at 4.30 – with Cooke, discuss various schemes of financing scheme.

Friday May 27th
To Can. Gov. Offices at 12. Mr. S. Fleming, Sir J. Heron Maxwell, Brydges & self – discuss scheme. Mr. S. Fleming approves plan of Director Bk of Montreal coming on Board & will himself write to Montreal suggesting it, he has written already to Sir D. Smith & Sir G. Stephen enclosing Prospectus of Amalgamation of Bell Farm & A. & A. Land & Coal Co. asking approval & necessary extension. *[Extension refers to Lister Kaye application to CPR and Fed. Gov't for land.]*

Saturday May 28th
"Finish and send off registered letter to Sir G. Stephen, Sir D. Smith and Hon. T. White Minister of Interior, Ottawa – enclosing amalgamation scheme of Bell Farms & A. & A. Land & Coal Co. – [Assiniboia & Alberta Land & Coal Co.] asking approval and extension necessary to complete."

Thursday June 2nd

See Frith and then Coates 99 Gresham St – bought out Man. Nor. West Bonds & Man. Loan - long talk with Sir John Maxwell there – Frith at 3 oc – they all want to cut out Bell Farm but it won't do.

Friday June 3rd
Renshaw at 12 - he does not like shares & does not like cutting out Bell Farm. I go to Frith, clever man, I suggest method of dealing with Bell Farm on basis of value of the other prospectus, we draw up plan – International Financial Society may be useful for scheme.

Saturday June 4th
Meet Sir J.H. Maxwell at Renshaw, long talk. Sir J.H.M. decides to come on Board. I see Firth again, I beg(?) discussion have arrived at proper basis for dealing with Bell Farm property.

Sunday June 5th
. . . write two letters to Brydges about delaying with Bell Farm.

Tuesday June 7th
[Arrive Edinburgh 4.55 a.m.] Brydges arrives 12.30 – We go to see Menzies in afternoon – about the Scottish American Investment Co. – accepting L30,000 in the New Co's [Assiniboia & Alberta ?] Debentures in lieu of the Bell Farm Co's Debts – Do not seem much inclined – See Sir G. Warrender he rather more inclined.

Wednesday June 8th
Board of S. A. I. Co.[Scottish American Investment Co.] at 12 – they will not have it – Propose L10,000 cash & L20,000 debentures – See Menzies at 4. oc – no go – but they will accept L25,000 cash for the L30,000 Deb. – I tell him he must place some for us, he will see – See Cowan he will see Menzies.

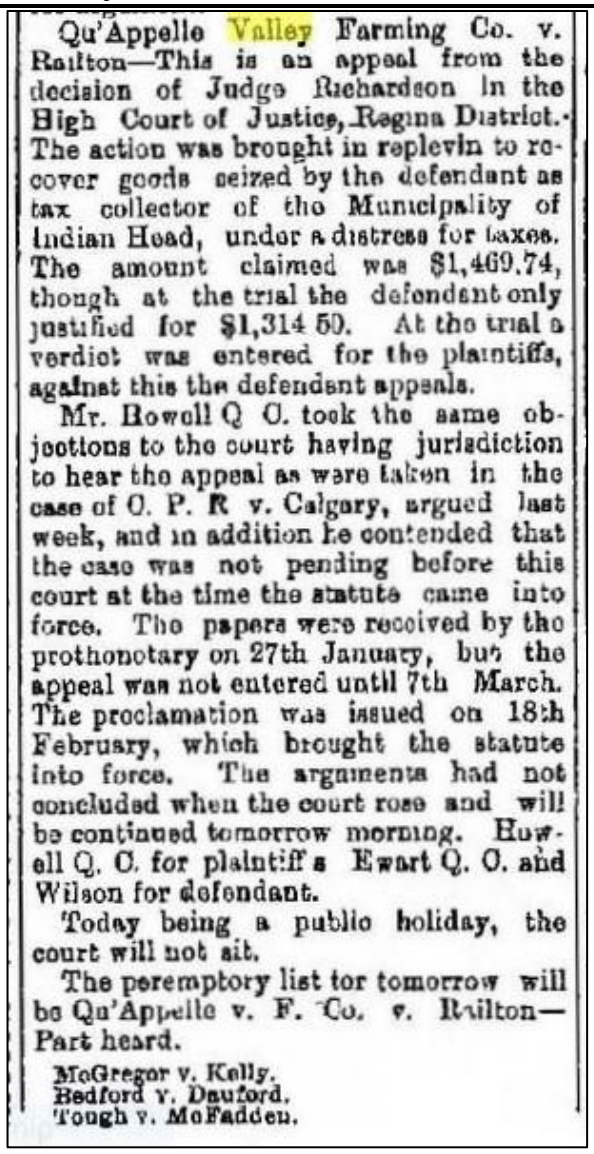
Thursday June 9th
To see Menzies propose that Company [Assiniboia & Alberta ?] shall give L35,000 cash and L16,000 Debentures for the Bell Farm property, no particular arrangement with no particular interest that shall be left to the Scottish Am. Investment Co. to arrange – He agrees and will co-operate with Bell & Cowan in placing Debentures – I see latter, they give me letter to Nathaniel Speers 101 St. Vincent St. Glasgow, on whose advice they depend.

Friday June 10th
Go to Glasgow, see N. Speers, talk over scheme for four hours, he draws up finance plan, & will co-operate with Scottish American Investment Co. - & Bell & Cowan in placing Debentures.

NOTE from Hugh Henry : Lister Kaye goes back to London. Over succeeding ten weeks of diary entries, references are made to shares, debentures, financing, investors and underwriting, but the Bell Farm is not mentioned, specifically, so it is not clear whether they relate to the Bell Farm or Lister Kaye's Balgonie Co. (farm he has initiated already), or formation of the proposed Alberta and Assiniboia Land & Coal Co., or other. It is clear he is having great difficulty in enlisting backers.

1887 – May 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 - Court Case: Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. vs. Railton

"**LEGAL INTELLIGENCE: . . . .**



Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. v. Railton—This is an appeal from the decision of Judge Richardson in the High Court of Justice, Regina District. The action was brought in replevin to recover goods seized by the defendant as tax collector of the Municipality of Indian Head, under a distress for taxes. The amount claimed was $1,469.74, though at the trial the defendant only justified for $1,314 50. At the trial a verdict was entered for the plaintiffs, against this the defendant appeals.

Mr. Howell Q C. took the same objections to the court having jurisdiction to hear the appeal as were taken in the case of C. P. R v. Calgary, argued last week, and in addition he contended that the case was not pending before this court at the time the statute came into force. The papers were received by the prothonotary on 27th January, but the appeal was not entered until 7th March. The proclamation was issued on 18th February, which brought the statute into force. The arguments had not concluded when the court rose and will be continued tomorrow morning. Howell Q. C. for plaintiffs Ewart Q. C. and Wilson for defendant.

Today being a public holiday, the court will not sit.

The peremptory list for tomorrow will be Qu'Appelle v. F. Co. v. Railton—Part heard.

McGregor v. Kelly.
Bedford v. Dauford.
Tough v. McFadden.

100 kb

1887 – May 26 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. vs. Railton - deferred

"**LEGAL INTELLIOGENCE.** IN TERM – BEFORE THE FULL COURT. The full court sat yesterday to hear appeals. Present, Chief Justice Wallbridge, Mr. Justice Taylor and Mr. Justice Killam.

Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. v. Railton – The arguments in this case were concluded when the court reserved judgement."

1887 – May 26 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – Mrs. Bell stays at the Qu'Appelle Valley Hotel, Fort Qu'Appelle.

"The following are among the arrivals at the Qu'Appelle Valley Hotel this week: . . . Mrs. Bell, W.R. Robertson, Indian Head; . . ." (Frank: I presume this is Major Bell's wife, as both she and Mr. Robertson as listed as being Indian Head residents.)

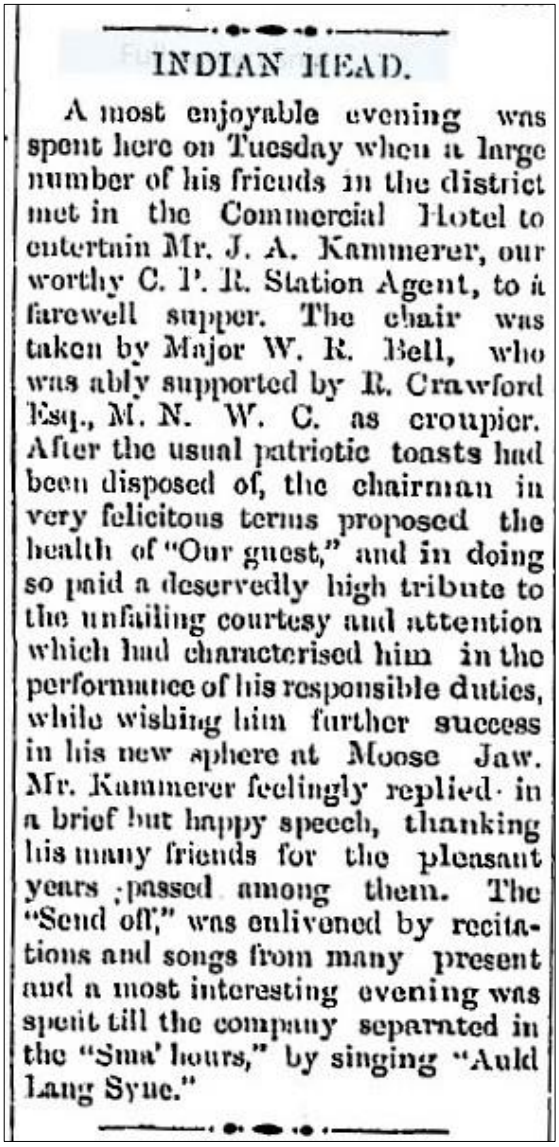
1887 – May 26 - *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 2 – Rev. Trotter to promote Prof. Tanner's Immigration Schemes

p. 2 : "Rev. Cannot Trotter, of Alwick, England, paid this town a visit last week in the interest of the Church of England Emigration Society. He brought out a party of 88 who were located at different points in Manitoba.

Canon Trotter was much taken up with the town and surrounding country, and will assist Prof. Tanner's immigration schemes."

ALSO:

1887 – May 26 - *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 2 – Bell hosts party for CPR statin agent Kammerer



INDIAN HEAD.

A most enjoyable evening was spent here on Tuesday when a large number of his friends in the district met in the Commercial Hotel to entertain Mr. J. A. Kammerer, our worthy C. P. R. Station Agent, to a farewell supper. The chair was taken by Major W. R. Bell, who was ably supported by R. Crawford Esq., M. N. W. C. as croupier. After the usual patriotic toasts had been disposed of, the chairman in very felicitous terms proposed the health of "Our guest," and in doing so paid a deservedly high tribute to the unfailing courtesy and attention which had characterised him in the performance of his responsible duties, while wishing him further success in his new sphere at Moose Jaw. Mr. Kammerer feelingly replied in a brief but happy speech, thanking his many friends for the pleasant years passed among them. The "Send off," was enlivened by recitations and songs from many present and a most interesting evening was spent till the company separated in the "Sma' hours," by singing "Auld Lang Syne."

139 kb

1887 – June 7 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Bell returns from east; 4,500 acres in wheat and oats sown

"Major Bell returned from the east on Saturday."

and

"The Bell Farm has 4,500 acres of wheat and oats."

1887 – June 9 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

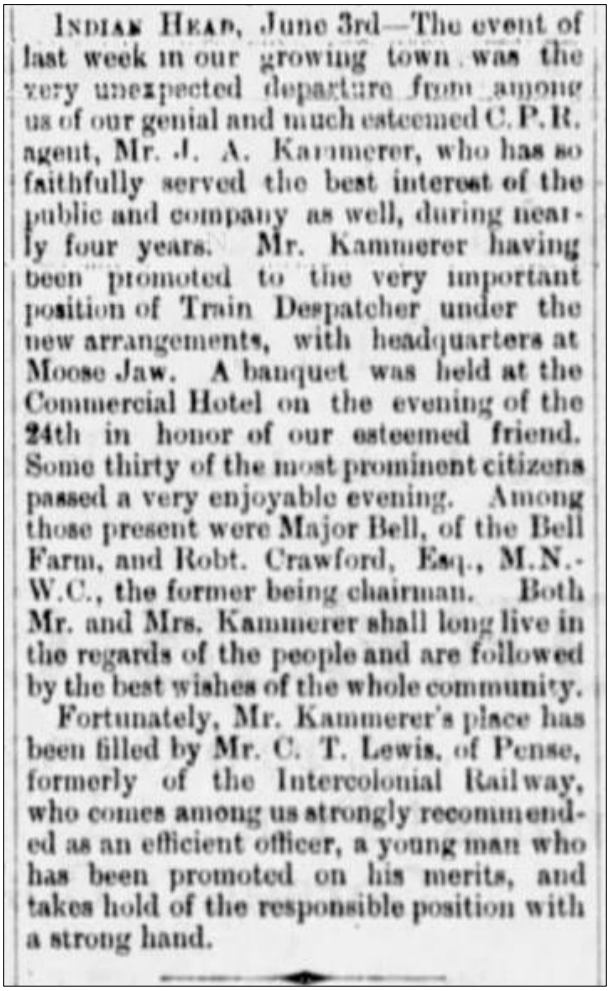
Indian Head. "Major Bell has returned home from the east. He won his suit against the Government for $5,000, balance of transport money." (Frank: this represents part of Bell's NW Rebellion of 1885 Losses claim)

"The Major is delighted with the prospects of abundant harvest on the Bell Farm. Things could not look better."

1887 – June 11 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 4 – Bell Farm sues Government for 1885 costs

"The Bell farm company is suing the government on a petition of right for $10 a day for their teams during the campaign of '85."

1887 – June 14 – *Regina Leader*, p. 2 – Bell attends farewell dinner for CPR Agent Kammerer



INDIAN HEAD, June 3rd—The event of last week in our growing town was the very unexpected departure from among us of our genial and much esteemed C. P. R. agent, Mr. J. A. Kammerer, who has so faithfully served the best interest of the public and company as well, during nearly four years. Mr. Kammerer having been promoted to the very important position of Train Despatcher under the new arrangements, with headquarters at Moose Jaw. A banquet was held at the Commercial Hotel on the evening of the 24th in honor of our esteemed friend. Some thirty of the most prominent citizens passed a very enjoyable evening. Among those present were Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, and Robt. Crawford, Esq., M.N.-W.C., the former being chairman. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kammerer shall long live in the regards of the people and are followed by the best wishes of the whole community.

Fortunately, Mr. Kammerer's place has been filled by Mr. C. T. Lewis, of Pense, formerly of the Intercolonial Railway, who comes among us strongly recommended as an efficient officer, a young man who has been promoted on his merits, and takes hold of the responsible position with a strong hand.

1887 – June 16– *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"Mr. HJ Eberts, formerly of Indian Head, but now of Winnipeg, was in town yesterday."

1887 – June 18 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 4 – Rebellion Losses Claim for Bell and Sinclair

"The Bell farm and Sinclair have secured judgement against the government in the courts for their rebellion claims. Sinclair's claim was $7,000 and was rejected by Commissioner Jackson."

1887 – 18 June – *Knox College Monthly and Presbyterian Record* – August, 1887 p. 221 & 244 – left Wpg Friday, June 17, 1887 for tour to West Coast – Indian Head on June 18 - report by Rev. R.D. Fraser on use of telephone on Bell Farm

P. 221 - "The beautiful Qu'Appelle district has been entered in the early hours of the morning. . . . . .Indian Head stands with the edge of the great Bell Farm, said to contain 53,387 acres. It is vert fine to look upon, as I found by a visit to it on my return. It is a grand idea, too, to work a farm by telephone and the idea seems to be tolerably well carried out, but how a few head-men, on good pay, and the great bulk of the assistants engaged merely for the season and then dispensed with, is to be to the benefit of the locality or the country at large is a problem which I cannot solve. . . . ."

P. 244 –

Making an early start on Friday, the committee journeyed southward to Indian Head *en route* for the Assiniboine reserve. On our way we saw the celebrated "Bell Farm." We drove through and around five thousand acres of wheat in one block. Should these broad lands fulfil their present promise, there will be a grand sight when the forty self-binders, which they purpose employing, are set to work. At the "Farm" we had a kind reception and a change of horses. Major Bell, of the "Farm," and Mr. Robertson, of Indian Head accompanied us. The settlement which we visited was that of Man-who-took-the-coat. His classic name has faded from our memory; we have given the interpretation, and by it he is very generally known. Mr. McLean is the teacher of the school among the Indians here. These being Sioux, we found them, like their kindred in the settlement visited on the north of the Qu'Appelle, more advanced in the pursuits of agriculture and in general habits of industry than any of the other Indians that we had previously seen. A loaf brought to the door of one of the little cottages at the request of one of our company might have been set without disparaging remark on any table in Ontario. A large field of wheat, cultivated and owned by one of the Indians, was not surpassed by any that we saw, even in the rich and fertile country about Portage la Prairie. We were glad to learn that the people of this tribe are becoming, with their greater prosperity and thrift, more and more domestic in their habits and more disposed to give themselves to the care of their fields and cattle. We cherish the hope that they will soon know and prize the blessing of the Lord which "maketh rich." In the

1887 – June – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
234	June 22, 1887	Rev. John J. Cameron, ….	Pickering, Ontario	Possibly part of the Presbyterian delegates tour to their missions in the Regina – Indian Head region.

1887 – 25 June – Excerpt from Sir John Lister-Kaye Diary

Saturday June 25th
See Brydges at 10.30 – Leman & Praeds about Balgonie L1200 but cannot arrange it.

Note from Hugh Henry: *No further mention of Brydges.*

1887 – June 27 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell in Winnipeg

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in the city."

1887 – June 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

Indian Head. "The ministerial delegates appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to inspect the various Indian reservations adjacent to the Canadian Pacific Railway, east of Regina, reached this point on their tour of inspection, accompanied by Haytor Read, Asst. Indian Commissioner, on Friday morning, coming via Fort Qu'Appelle. After doing the Bell Farm they started immediately for the Assiniboine reserve. The following citizens accompanied them from Indian Head: Major Bell . . . "

"The Bell Farm has about one hundred horse plowing. Their 4,500 acres of crop looks immense."***

1887 – June 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

Indian Head. "Major Bell is in town."

"The Bell Farm, under the able management of the Major, has been fairly pushing things, in matters of shipment."

"The grain shipments from this point have already assumed much larger proportions than any previous year in the history of this town. About 70,000 bushels of fine wheat has already been handled by the CPR."

1887 – July 5 – *Regina Leader,* p. __ – Presbyterian delegates visit the Bell Farm and Assiniboine reserve

"The Indians – Crops – Masons: (from our correspondent) Indian Head, June 28 – The delegates appointed by the Presbyterian Assembly to visit the Indian reserves, reached here from Fort Qu'Appelle, accompanied by Hayter Reed, Esq., on Friday forenoon. After taking in the Bell Farm they left for Assiniboine reserve, accompanied by the following citizens from here: Major Bell, W. Robertson, P.M. Dunlop and C.T. Lewis. The drive of twenty miles to the reserve was very exhilarating. All the party seemed delighted with the appearance of the country. The delegates made a thorough inspection of the conditions of the Indians and this reserve under instructor Mr. W.S. Grant, held a long interview with Chief Jack, which was very satisfactory; he seems a most humane and intelligent chief. Expressed sympathy with the work of education,

but raised objections to any coercive measures being used with the Indian children. The delegates seemed more than pleased with the evidence of progress that are everywhere apparent.

Crops are simply magnificent. Your correspondent notice one forty-five acre field of whet over twenty inches high. Altogether there are 230 acres of crops growing on this reserve and the Indians are pushing preparations for another year's crop. The delegates are fully convinced that the state of our Indians has ben greatly misrepresented by unreliable writing.

Our new school house is in course of completion. Mr. Cown is pushing the work."

Later: "Major Bell left for Winnipeg on Saturday."

1887 – July 12 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. ___ – Major Bell in Winnipeg (as reported on July 12, 1907, p. 1 – 20 Years Ago Today)

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in the city."

1887 – July 15 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Major Bell at Winnipeg's Queen's Hotel

"Among those at the Queen's are - . . . . Major Bell, Indian Head . . . . . ."

1887 – July 21 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Good crops on the Bell Farm – but need rain

" INDIAN HEAD, N.W.T. July 19 - . . . . The country is greatly in need of more rain. But few days excessive heat has injured our bright prospects. A refreshing shower last night cheered the face of nature, still the fields are thirsty.

Your correspondent visited the Bell farm today and found the Major in good spirits, he had just returned from examining his 4,000 acres and assured us most of this immense wheat field was in fine shape, although much in need of rain.

WELCOME RAINS

INDIAN HEAD, July 20 – This section of the country was visited with a refreshing shower of rain this afternoon which was much needed, this will make the crop safe."

1887 – July 26 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell at Queen's Hotel, Winnipeg

"The following are registered at the Queens: . . . . .and Major Bell, Indian Head."

1887 – July – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
235	July 7, 1887	Mabel Lake	"Winmarleigh", Grenfell	Saskatchewan – probably related to Richard Lake, later Lieut. Gov. of Saskatchewan (see also # 251-253) Mabel Lake was Richard Lake's sister. See Grenfell local history p 93

236	"	Henrietta A. Phillips	Emerson, Manitoba	
237		Gordon D. Legg	Jamestown, Dakota	United States
238		W.C. Cameron	Edgeley Farm	Saskatchewan Hmmm, according to my information (gathered from Bruce Farrar, Vernon Church historian, whose great great something or other established Vernon Church with Emily Cameron) William C. Cameron was the manager of Edgeley Farm (see Sykes above). His wife was Emily. Bruce thinks that the M is probably his version of a W, and therefore are one and the same.

1887 - July - *The Queen's Highway From Ocean to Ocean*, by Stuart C. Cumberland, p. 185-186 – Indians helped with Bell Farm harvest in 1886. Toured Bell Farm with Major Bell and H.J. Eberts.

> "A good number of Indians frequent Regina for the purpose of barter, but most of them loaf about the place in order to see what they can pick up. There is not much work in the 'noble red man,' although the younger generation are showing a disposition to work in the fields; and in the harvesting season many of them are employed on the Bell Farm."

1887 – 24 Aug. – *Manitoba Free Press* – Baird and Carruthers visit Winnipeg and points west, including the Bell Farm

> "Several of the great grain merchants of Eastern Canada are visiting the city [Winnipeg] at present, attracted no doubt by the fame of Manitoba's harvest. The following are staying at the Queen's Hotel [Winnipeg]. Mr. Baird, of Crane & Baird, Toronto and Montreal, Mr. Tilly, of W.P. Howland & Co., Toronto; and Mr. Carruthers, of Carruthers & Norris, Toronto and Montreal."

1887 – Aug. 25 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 4 – Dewdney, Sir George Stephen, and the Bell Farm crop

> "**Manitoba and the Northwest.** Lieut. Governor Dewdney says that there will be a yield of 100,000 bushels of wheat on the Bell Farm this year. There are, on that farm, 350 acres of oats and 25 acres of flax. It is likely that Sir George Stephen will be invited to witness the reapers at work on the immense crop."

1887 – Aug. 25 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell visits Winnipeg; excellent crops

> "Personal - Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in the city."
>
> "Rev. Mr. Robertson says the crops are very fine . . . . . In the Northwest Territories the crop is not so good, although the average yield of wheat will be between 15 and 20 bushels. On some parts of the Bell Farm, in the neighbourhood of Qu'Appelle, Whitewood and other points the crop is exceptionally fine. . . . . ."

1887 – 30 Aug. *Manitoba Free Press* – Baird and Carruthers at Bell Farm on Aug. 27

VISITING WHEAT BUYERS.

They did not See a Poor Crop of Wheat—A Magnificent Harvest.

Mr. Baird and Mr. Carruthers, both large wheat buyers in Ontario, have been spending the last week in visiting the Province. Reports of our magnificent wheat crop had reached them even in Toronto, and they determined to take advantage of the holiday season before the fall trade began and see it with their own eyes. They accordingly came, saw and were conquered, and left for home last night great believers in Manitoba as the great wheat country of the world.

They went west as far as Indian Head Carberry, Brandon, Minnedosa, and Rapid City districts were also visited. Speaking yesterday of their trip they said they never saw such crops in all their experience. At some places there were miles and miles of grain, of the best quality They did not see any poor grain during their trip, it was all of a uniformly good kind and would grade high. As to the yield they were confident that it would average over twenty five bushels to the acre in all the districts included in their travels.

They visited the Bell farm, which has five thousand acres in crop this year The wheat on this farm appeared to be quite equal to that in Manitoba both in quality and yield. The immense harvest on this farm will be completed next week. To cover so large an area an army of men are engaged.

They say that Manitoba has beaten Ontario out of sight this season. The "premier province" has to take a back seat so far as wheat growing is concerned. The spring wheat crop is almost a failure, while the fall wheat crop will average sixteen bushels to the acre. The yield of oats, however, had been heavy, but the farmers would make very little profit on them this year, as the magnificent oat crops in Russia had led to keen competition from that quarter. As yet the firms represented by these gentlemen have confined their operations to Ontario, but they intend to extend them to the Northwest this fall.

(270 kb) (222 kb)

(Note: later on Major Bell did enter into business with Carruthers, as witnessed by the 1888/89 law suit filed by the Major against Norris and Carruthers in the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories: 137/88.)

1887 – August – Visitors Register

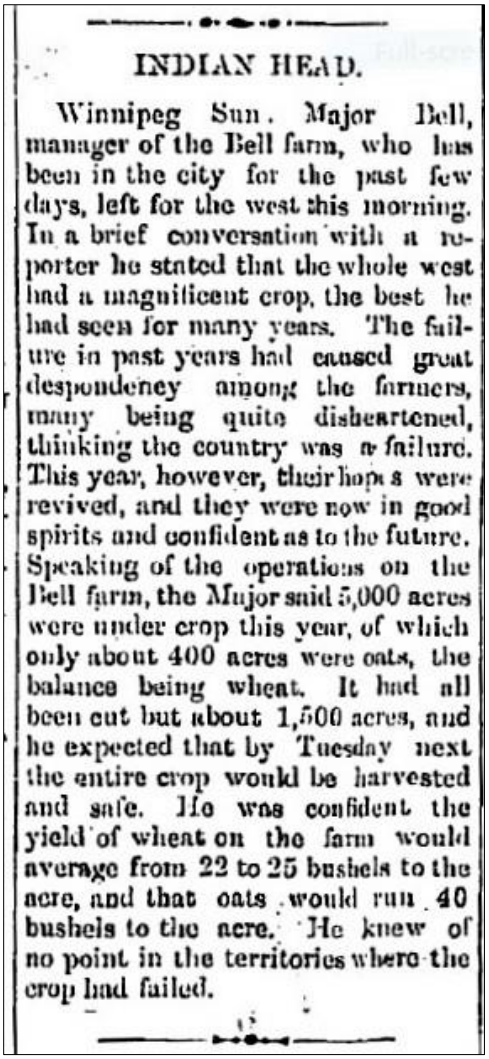
Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
240	August 17, 1887	Ernest Ingersoll, Editor of Publications	Montreal	Quebec Ingersoll worked for the CPR in 1887-88
241	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry	No Entry
242	August 27, 1887	James Carruthers	Toronto, Ontario	Carruthers began his career in the grain export firm owned by H.N. Baird; grain merchant from Montreal and Toronto
243	August 27, 1887	H.N. Baird	Toronto, Ontario	Grain merchant from Montreal and Toronto
244		W.M. Scarth	Winnipeg	Manitoba This might be Wm Scarth, one of the trustees of the Canada North-west Land Company, which sold CPR land. Don't know when it was incorporated. As a trustee, he was listed as living in Ottawa.

245	August 30, 1887	G.C. Alexander	*Reigati,* Surrey	England
246	August 30, 1887	M.M. Kitto	*Claring* Cross, London	England – Mabel Mary Kitto
247 a & b		Professor & Mrs. Tanner	London, England	Same as # 69 & 187 (arrived at Qu'Appelle early ug – Qu'Appelle Progress, 4 Aug. 1887.
248		D. Graton, P.P.	Regina	Saskatchewan – Damian Graton was the Roman Catholic priest at St. Mary's Church, Regina
249		Edgar Dudley, M.R.A.C.	Charmouth, Dorset	England

1887 – Sept. 1 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 - Major Bell in Winnipeg

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in the city."

1887 – Sept. 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Major Bell in Winnipeg, reports on crops



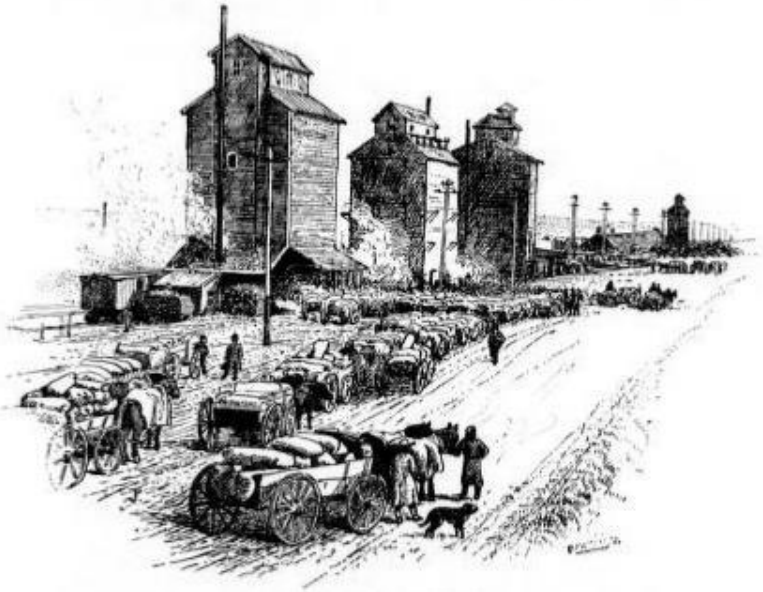
INDIAN HEAD.

Winnipeg Sun. Major Bell, manager of the Bell farm, who has been in the city for the past few days, left for the west this morning. In a brief conversation with a reporter he stated that the whole west had a magnificent crop, the best he had seen for many years. The failure in past years had caused great despondency among the farmers, many being quite disheartened, thinking the country was a failure. This year, however, their hopes were revived, and they were now in good spirits and confident as to the future. Speaking of the operations on the Bell farm, the Major said 5,000 acres were under crop this year, of which only about 400 acres were oats, the balance being wheat. It had all been cut but about 1,500 acres, and he expected that by Tuesday next the entire crop would be harvested and safe. He was confident the yield of wheat on the farm would average from 22 to 25 bushels to the acre, and that oats would run 40 bushels to the acre. He knew of no point in the territories where the crop had failed.

123 kb

1887 – c. Sept. 12 – *A Trip Around the World*, by W.S. Caine, M.P. - p. 55 & 56 – a brief description of the Bell Farm – but not visited

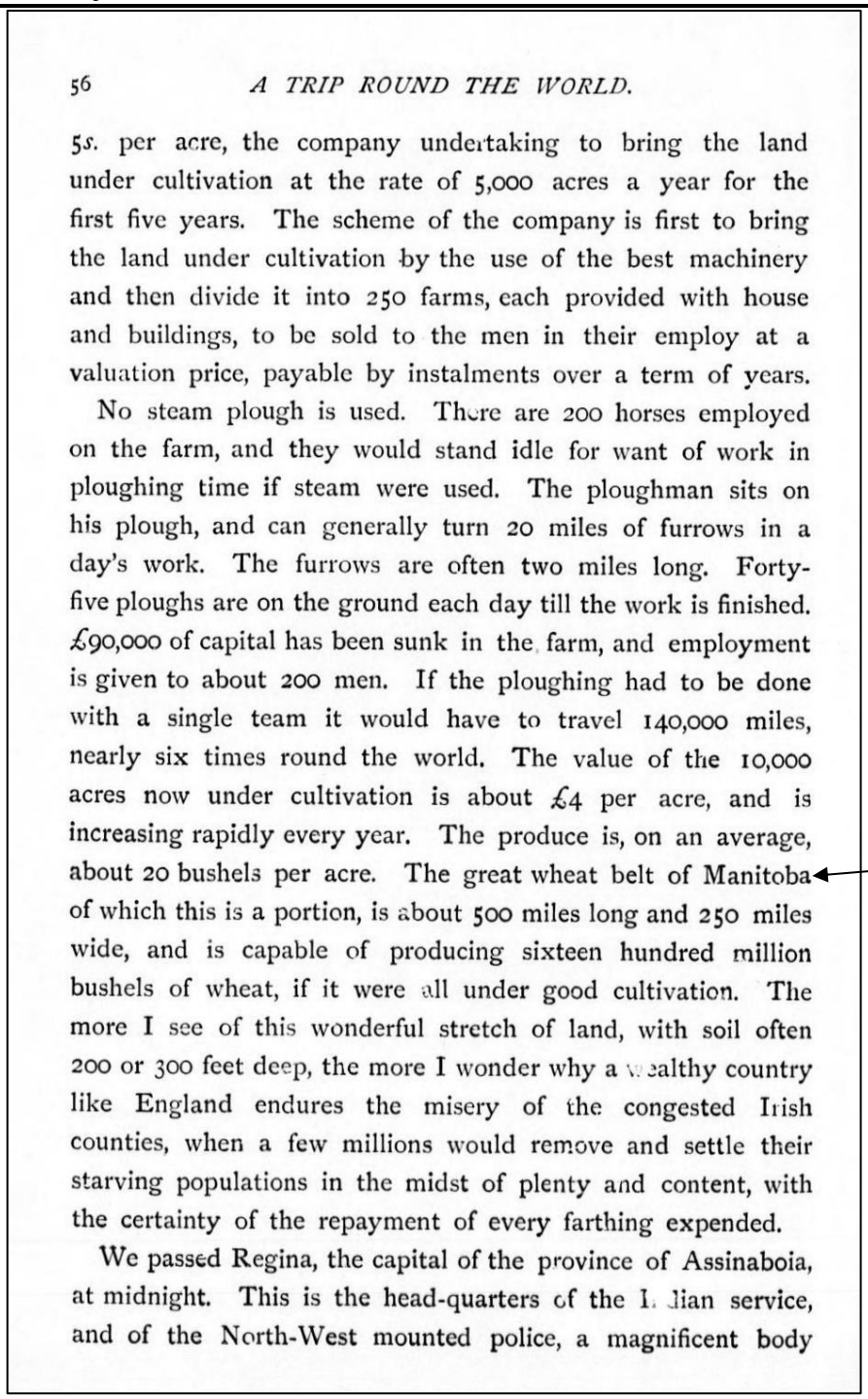
warehouses at the station. We ran all afternoon through a district very thinly settled, and it was dark before we reached Indian Head, where the famous Bell Farm is situated, the train running through it. If there had been any hotel accommodation within reach I would have stayed over to see this farm, one of the most interesting agricultural experiments on the Continent of America, but I was obliged to pass it by. The Bell Farm is the property of a limited company, managed for



RAILWAY DEPOT, BRANDON.

the shareholders by Major W. R. Bell. Its area is about 64,000 acres, or about 100 square miles, and is the largest arable farm in the world. Of course it is not yet all under cultivation. The farm was started in 1882, and was acquired by the company under a special Act of Parliament. The land is the famous black soil of the prairie, and is well watered by streams. The contract with the Dominion Government was a purchase at

Part 1 of 2 79 kb



56 *A TRIP ROUND THE WORLD.*

5*s.* per acre, the company undertaking to bring the land under cultivation at the rate of 5,000 acres a year for the first five years. The scheme of the company is first to bring the land under cultivation by the use of the best machinery and then divide it into 250 farms, each provided with house and buildings, to be sold to the men in their employ at a valuation price, payable by instalments over a term of years.

No steam plough is used. There are 200 horses employed on the farm, and they would stand idle for want of work in ploughing time if steam were used. The ploughman sits on his plough, and can generally turn 20 miles of furrows in a day's work. The furrows are often two miles long. Forty-five ploughs are on the ground each day till the work is finished. £90,000 of capital has been sunk in the farm, and employment is given to about 200 men. If the ploughing had to be done with a single team it would have to travel 140,000 miles, nearly six times round the world. The value of the 10,000 acres now under cultivation is about £4 per acre, and is increasing rapidly every year. The produce is, on an average, about 20 bushels per acre. The great wheat belt of Manitoba of which this is a portion, is about 500 miles long and 250 miles wide, and is capable of producing sixteen hundred million bushels of wheat, if it were all under good cultivation. The more I see of this wonderful stretch of land, with soil often 200 or 300 feet deep, the more I wonder why a wealthy country like England endures the misery of the congested Irish counties, when a few millions would remove and settle their starving populations in the midst of plenty and content, with the certainty of the repayment of every farthing expended.

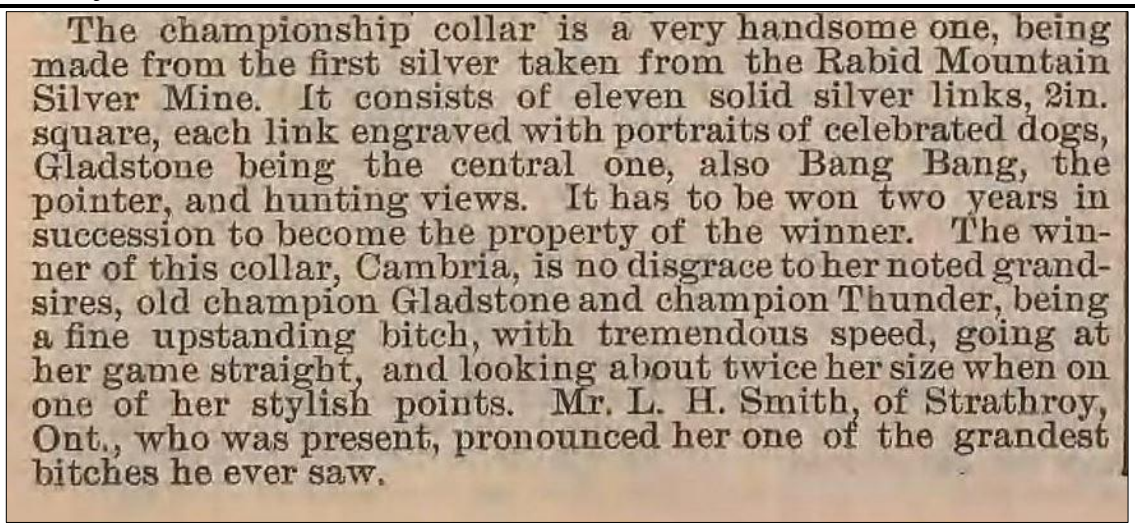
We passed Regina, the capital of the province of Assinaboia, at midnight. This is the head-quarters of the Indian service, and of the North-West mounted police, a magnificent body

Part 2 of 2 233 kb

1887 – Sept. 15 – *Manitoba Free Press* , p. 4 –

"PERSONAL: . . . . . Major Bell , of Indian Head, arrived last night."

1887 – Sept 22 – *Field and Stream*, p. 170 - ref to Rabbit Mountain Silver Mine



The championship collar is a very handsome one, being made from the first silver taken from the Rabid Mountain Silver Mine. It consists of eleven solid silver links, 2in. square, each link engraved with portraits of celebrated dogs, Gladstone being the central one, also Bang Bang, the pointer, and hunting views. It has to be won two years in succession to become the property of the winner. The winner of this collar, Cambria, is no disgrace to her noted grandsires, old champion Gladstone and champion Thunder, being a fine upstanding bitch, with tremendous speed, going at her game straight, and looking about twice her size when on one of her stylish points. Mr. L. H. Smith, of Strathroy, Ont., who was present, pronounced her one of the grandest bitches he ever saw.

163 kb

1887 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
250	Sept. 9, 1887	*Eva S.* Bell		Sister to Major W. R. Bell
251-	Sept. 16, 1887	*Percy G.* B. Lake	"Winmarleigh Grange", Grenfell	Saskatchewan The Grenfell local history makes no mention of
252		Richard S. Lake	"Winmarleigh Grange", Grenfell	Saskatchewan – later became Lieut. Gov. of Saskatchewan (se
253		Arthur *J.* Lake	"Winmarleigh Grange", Grenfell	Saskatchewan Nor Arthur
254	Sept. 17, 1887	H. *J.* Wilkinson, Major General, United Service Club	Pall Mall, London	England

1887 – Oct. 5 – *Winnipeg Free Press* report on dairy delegation from eastern Canada to the Indian Head Fair and the Bell Farm (identical article in "*Eastern Press*")

"**INDIAN HEAD FAIR – Weather Delightful, Attendance Good, and a Fine Display of Exhibits.**
INDIAN HEAD, Oct. 5 - The fourth annual show of the Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society was held here today and proved a complete success. The weather was delightful, the attendance huge, and the exhibits in every department simply astonished the visitors, who freely acknowledged this the best show yet seen in the Territories. There were present press representatives from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E. Island, Quebec and Ontario. Prof. Saunders is also here. A grand banquet was held this evening in honour of our guests, Mr. Perley, M.P., and Prof. Saunders were the chief speakers. The press representatives and other visitors are now off for a moonlight drive to Qu'Appelle, where another show takes place to-morrow."

1887 – Oct 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 2 – Joseph Glenn's new house; Major Bell goes East; and crop report

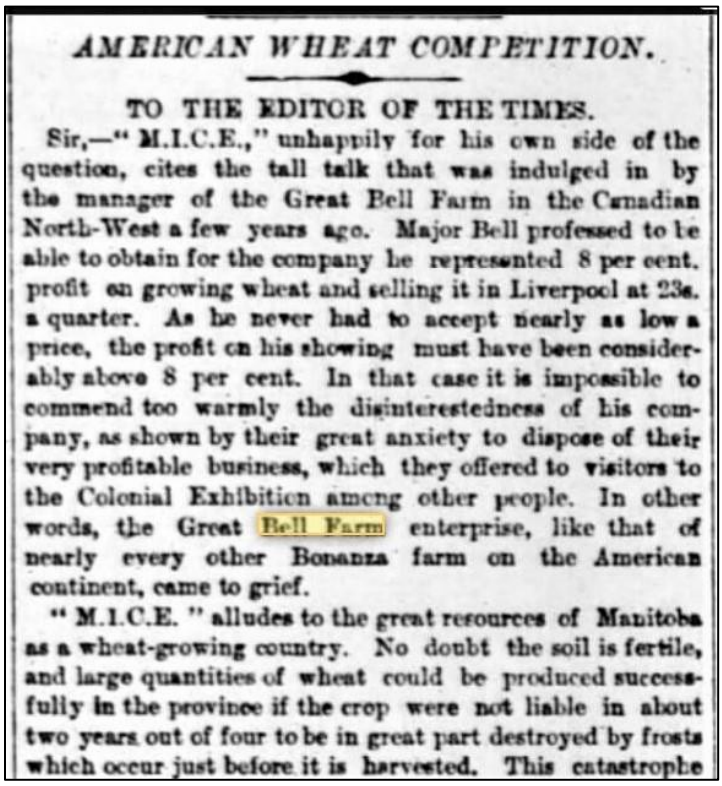
"INDIAN HEAD, - Oct. 2 – J. Glenn, our livery man, is evidently making money, as he [is] building a fine new residence. Mr. Conn has also refitted his residence. Improvements are going on everywhere, this speaks well for the town.

Major Bell went east some days ago as far as Montreal.

The Bell farm people have been threshing oats; the yield is represented as very satisfactory, they have scarcely finished stacking their immense wheat fields.

Farmers in general have secured all their crops the weather has continued most propitious."

1887 – Oct. 11 – *The London Times*, p. 13 – comment on the Bell Farm



AMERICAN WHEAT COMPETITION.

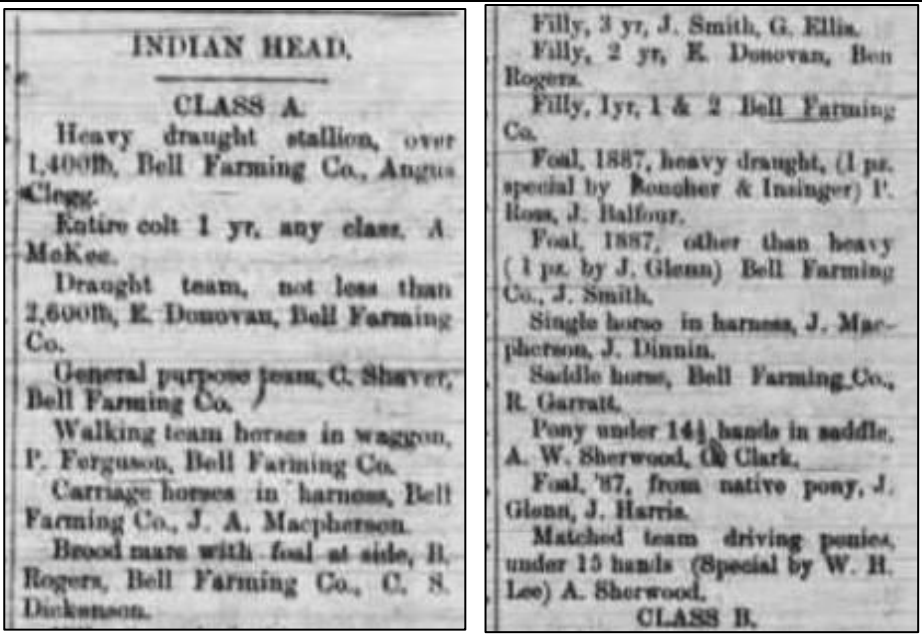
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—" M.I.C.E.," unhappily for his own side of the question, cites the tall talk that was indulged in by the manager of the Great Bell Farm in the Canadian North-West a few years ago. Major Bell professed to be able to obtain for the company he represented 8 per cent. profit on growing wheat and selling it in Liverpool at 23s. a quarter. As he never had to accept nearly as low a price, the profit on his showing must have been considerably above 8 per cent. In that case it is impossible to commend too warmly the disinterestedness of his company, as shown by their great anxiety to dispose of their very profitable business, which they offered to visitors to the Colonial Exhibition among other people. In other words, the Great Bell Farm enterprise, like that of nearly every other Bonanza farm on the American continent, came to grief.

" M.I.C.E. " alludes to the great resources of Manitoba as a wheat-growing country. No doubt the soil is fertile, and large quantities of wheat could be produced successfully in the province if the crop were not liable in about two years out of four to be in great part destroyed by frosts which occur just before it is harvested. This catastrophe

1887 – Oct. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Bell Farm prizes at Indian Head Agricultural Society show

[Indian Head Agricultural Society prize list. Bell Farming Co. wins first prize in the Heavy Draught Stallion category, and first or second in most of the other horse categories.]



INDIAN HEAD.

CLASS A.

Heavy draught stallion, over 1,400lb, Bell Farming Co., Angus Clegg.

Entire colt 1 yr, any class, A. McKee.

Draught team, not less than 2,600lb, E. Donovan, Bell Farming Co.

General purpose team, C. Shaver, Bell Farming Co.

Walking team horses in waggon, P. Ferguson, Bell Farming Co.

Carriage horses in harness, Bell Farming Co., J. A. Macpherson.

Brood mare with foal at side, B. Rogers, Bell Farming Co., C. S. Dickenson.

Filly, 3 yr, J. Smith, G. Ellis.

Filly, 2 yr, E. Donovan, Ben Rogers.

Filly, 1yr, 1 & 2 Bell Farming Co.

Foal, 1887, heavy draught, (1 pr. special by Boucher & Insinger) P. Ross, J. Balfour.

Foal, 1887, other than heavy (1 pr. by J. Glenn) Bell Farming Co., J. Smith.

Single horse in harness, J. Macpherson, J. Dinnin.

Saddle horse, Bell Farming Co., R. Garratt.

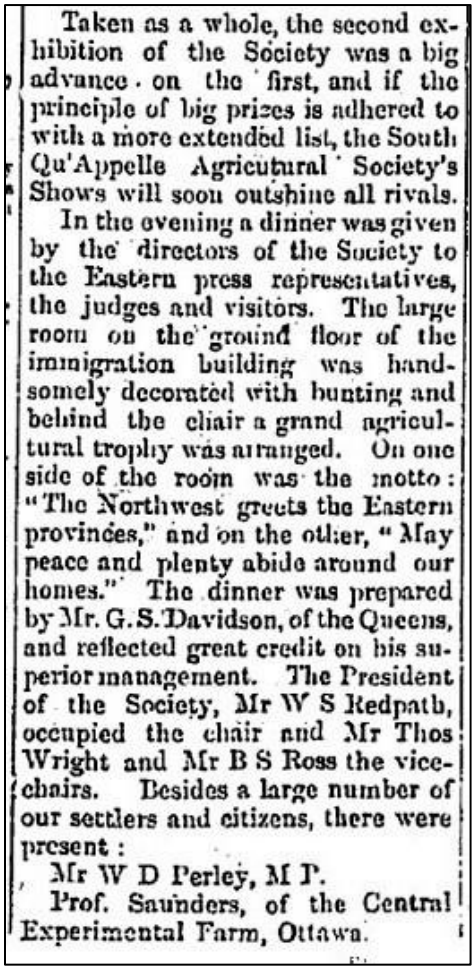
Pony under 14½ hands in saddle, A. W. Sherwood, G. Clark.

Foal, '87, from native pony, J. Glenn, J. Harris.

Matched team driving ponies, under 15 hands (Special by W. H. Lee) A. Sherwood.

CLASS B.

1887 – Oct. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*, p. 1 – List of newspapers attendees at Indian Head Agricultural Society show – many of whom signed the Bell Farm Visitor's Register on Oct. 5, 1887.



Taken as a whole, the second exhibition of the Society was a big advance on the first, and if the principle of big prizes is adhered to with a more extended list, the South Qu'Appelle Agricutural Society's Shows will soon outshine all rivals.

In the evening a dinner was given by the directors of the Society to the Eastern press representatives, the judges and visitors. The large room on the ground floor of the immigration building was handsomely decorated with bunting and behind the chair a grand agricultural trophy was arranged. On one side of the room was the motto: "The Northwest greets the Eastern provinces," and on the other, "May peace and plenty abide around our homes." The dinner was prepared by Mr. G.S. Davidson, of the Queens, and reflected great credit on his superior management. The President of the Society, Mr W S Redpath, occupied the chair and Mr Thos Wright and Mr B S Ross the vice-chairs. Besides a large number of our settlers and citizens, there were present:

Mr W D Perley, M P.

Prof. Saunders, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

ASSIN., OCT. 18, 1887.-

Mr. W. L. Cotton, editor of the Examiner, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Mr. A. B. Warburton, secretary of the Patriot Co., Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Mr. J. A. Bell, reporter for the Chronicle, Halifax, N. S.

Mr. J. J. Stewart, editor of the Herald, Halifax, N. S.

Mr. W. B. Alley, editor and proprietor of the Colchester Sun, Truro, N. S.

Mr. H. Truman, an experienced farmer, representing the Post, Sackville, N. B, and the Sun, St. John, N. B.

Mr. J. D. Hazen, a barrister, stockholder in the Maritime Farmer.

Mr. H. B. Mitchell, a practical farmer, representing the Religious Intelligencer, Fredericton, N. B.

Mr. W. H. Lynch, representing the Herald, Montreal.

Mr. Wm. Weld, of the Farmers' Advocate, London, Ont.

Mr. W. W. Fox, reporter for the Mail, Toronto.

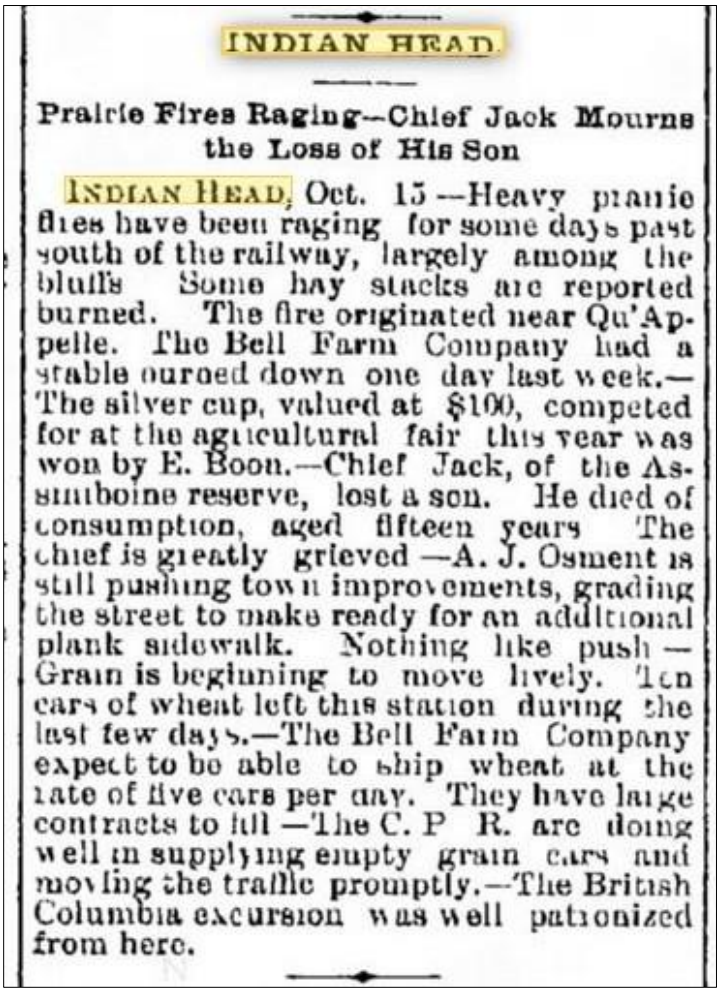
The usual toasts were proposed and honored, and excellent replies were elicited, especially from Prof. Saunders and the Press representatives. Lack of space prevents us from giving a full report of the toasts and replies.

The list of prize winners is appended: the number after each article represents the number of entries in that section:

HORSES.

Part 1 of 2 Part 2 of 2

1887 – Oct 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 3 – Prairie Fire, Chief Jack, and Crop reports at Bell Farm



INDIAN HEAD.

Prairie Fires Raging—Chief Jack Mourns the Loss of His Son

INDIAN HEAD, Oct. 15—Heavy prairie fires have been raging for some days past south of the railway, largely among the bluffs. Some hay stacks are reported burned. The fire originated near Qu'Appelle. The Bell Farm Company had a stable burned down one day last week.—The silver cup, valued at $100, competed for at the agricultural fair this year was won by E. Boon.—Chief Jack, of the Assiniboine reserve, lost a son. He died of consumption, aged fifteen years. The chief is greatly grieved.—A. J. Osment is still pushing town improvements, grading the street to make ready for an additional plank sidewalk. Nothing like push.—Grain is beginning to move lively. Ten cars of wheat left this station during the last few days.—The Bell Farm Company expect to be able to ship wheat at the rate of five cars per day. They have large contracts to fill.—The C. P. R. are doing well in supplying empty grain cars and moving the traffic promptly.—The British Columbia excursion was well patronized from here.

1887 – Oct. 22 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell is in Winnipeg

"PERSONAL . . . . . Major W.R. Bell, of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, is registered at the Queen's"

1887 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
255	Oct. 5, 1887	J. Douglas Hazen	Fredericton. N.B.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
256	"	William W. Fox	Toronto, Ont.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
257	"	J.J. Stewart	Halifax, N.S.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
258	"	Jas. Harris, *V.S.*	Moosomin	Saskatchewan – James Harris was a Veterinary Surgeon who came from Ottawa and provided horses for the Bell Farm in 1883. He also served in the North West Rebellion as veterinarian. He moved to Moosomin in 1882.
259	"	W.D. Perley	Wolseley	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)

260	"	A.B. Warburton	Charlottetown, P.E. Island	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
261	"	H.B. Mitchell	Fredericton, N.B.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
262	"	W.L. Cotton	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
263	"	W.H. Lynch	Danville, Que.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
264	"	W.B. Alley	Col. Sun, Truro, N.S.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
265	"	J.A. Bell	Chronicle, Halifax, N.S.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
266	"	Howard Trueman	Point *de Butte*, N.B.	(See also – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1, Oct. 13, 1887)
267	"	J. K. Kammerer	Moose Jaw, NWT	Saskatchewan (J.K. Kammerer was Station Agent at Indian Head at least between 1883 and 1885 – ref. letter written by son of H.J. Eberts. Ca. 1930 – 1950). Promoted to CPR agent at Moose Jaw by 1887. (Alternately listed as" J.A". in some sources: 1912 Directory of Directors in Canada: J.A. Kemmerer, Huston's Standard Publications, p. 132 , President, Standard Loan Company, Toronto.)

1887 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1180	F 14	SCNWT 98/87	The Bell Farming Company Vs. T.W. Jackson	1882-1888	
1238	P 14	SCNWT 125/87	A.J. Osment Vs. S. Campkin	1887-1889	

1887 – November – Visitors Register

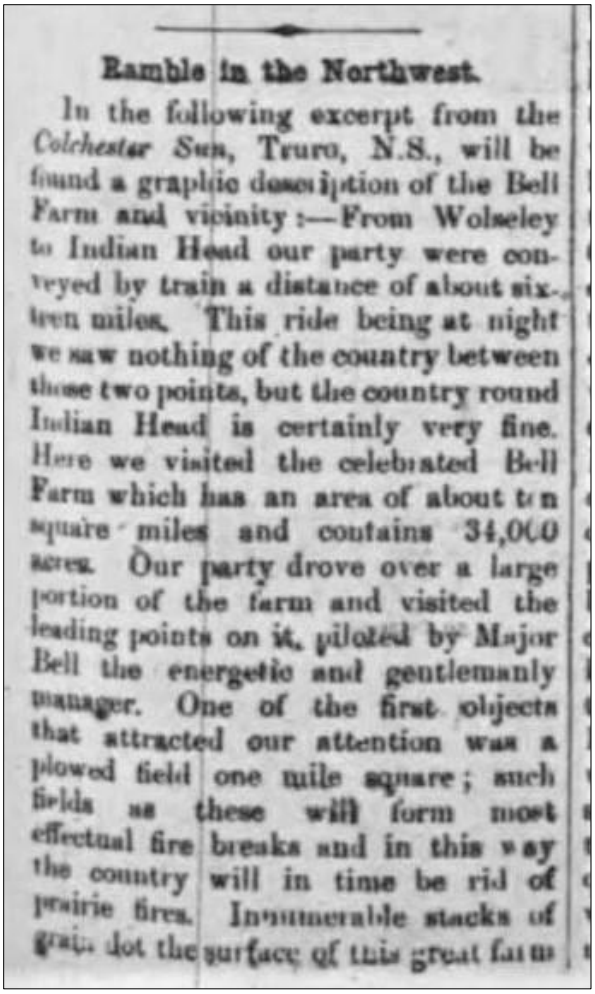
Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
268	Nov. 23	Lawrence Vankoughnet	Ottawa, Ont.	Lawrence Vankoughnet was the Deputy of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Ottawa 1874-1893.

1887 – Nov 22 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – Bell Farm to be split up into smaller farms

"OTTAWA – Nov. 21 – It is reported on good authority that the Bell Farm is to be divided up an sold in small farms, the company being satisfied of the failure of the experiment."

1887 – Nov. 24 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*, p. 3 - description of the farm and crop report by reporter from the *Colchester Sun,* Truro, N.S.

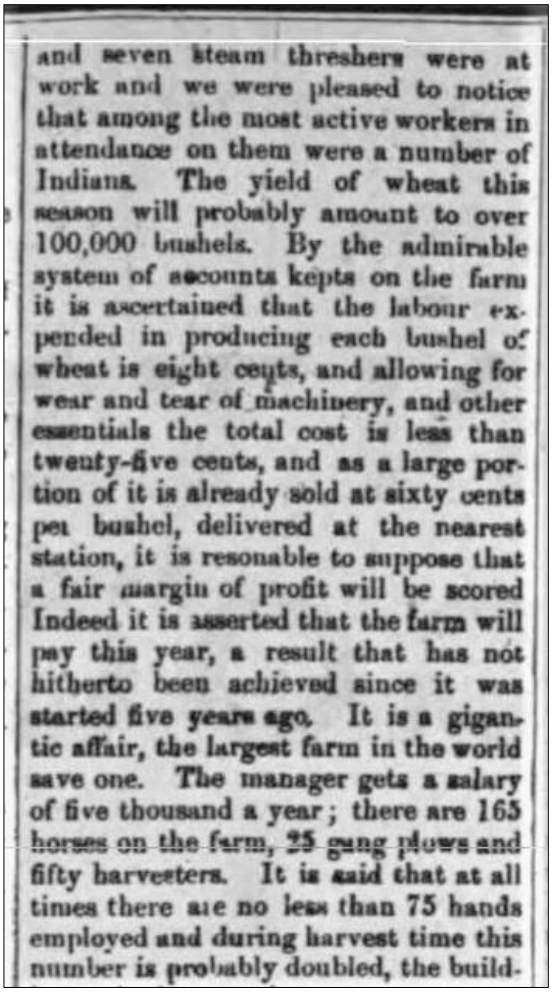
"**COMMUNICATIONS** - **INDIAN HEAD -** Major Bell is in town. . . . . Shipment is now being made of 50,000 bushels of wheat direct to Liverpool, England, via Boston. . . . . The Bell farm, under the able management of the Major, has been fairly pushing things, in matters of shipment."



Ramble in the Northwest.

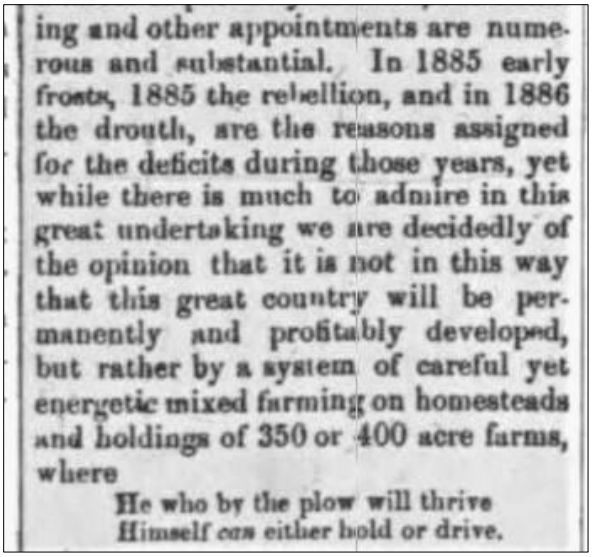
In the following excerpt from the *Colchester Sun*, Truro, N.S., will be found a graphic description of the Bell Farm and vicinity :—From Wolseley to Indian Head our party were conveyed by train a distance of about sixteen miles. This ride being at night we saw nothing of the country between those two points, but the country round Indian Head is certainly very fine. Here we visited the celebrated Bell Farm which has an area of about ten square miles and contains 34,000 acres. Our party drove over a large portion of the farm and visited the leading points on it, piloted by Major Bell the energetic and gentlemanly manager. One of the first objects that attracted our attention was a plowed field one mile square; such fields as these will form most effectual fire breaks and in this way the country will in time be rid of prairie fires. Innumerable stacks of grain dot the surface of this great farm

Part 1 90 kb



and seven steam threshers were at work and we were pleased to notice that among the most active workers in attendance on them were a number of Indians. The yield of wheat this season will probably amount to over 100,000 bushels. By the admirable system of accounts kepts on the farm it is ascertained that the labour expended in producing each bushel of wheat is eight cents, and allowing for wear and tear of machinery, and other essentials the total cost is less than twenty-five cents, and as a large portion of it is already sold at sixty cents per bushel, delivered at the nearest station, it is resonable to suppose that a fair margin of profit will be scored Indeed it is asserted that the farm will pay this year, a result that has not hitherto been achieved since it was started five years ago. It is a gigantic affair, the largest farm in the world save one. The manager gets a salary of five thousand a year; there are 165 horses on the farm, 25 gang plows and fifty harvesters. It is said that at all times there are no less than 75 hands employed and during harvest time this number is probably doubled, the build-

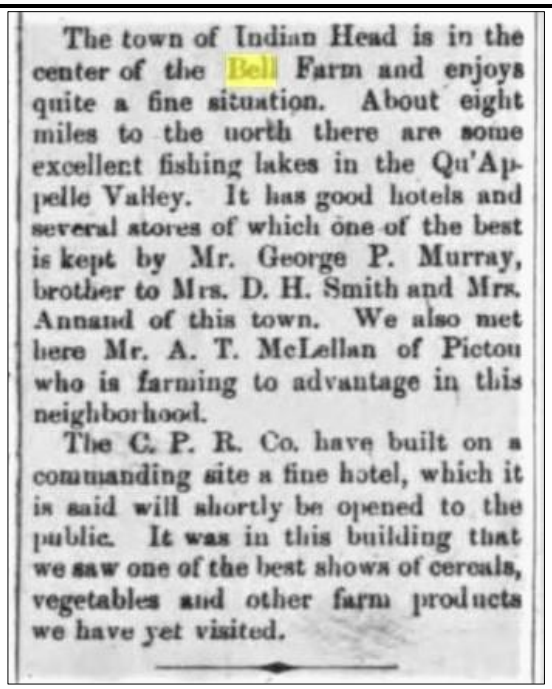
Part 2 112 kb



ing and other appointments are numerous and substantial. In 1885 early frosts, 1885 the rebellion, and in 1886 the drouth, are the reasons assigned for the deficits during those years, yet while there is much to admire in this great undertaking we are decidedly of the opinion that it is not in this way that this great country will be permanently and profitably developed, but rather by a system of careful yet energetic mixed farming on homesteads and holdings of 350 or 400 acre farms, where

He who by the plow will thrive
Himself can either hold or drive.

Part 3 74 kb



The town of Indian Head is in the center of the Bell Farm and enjoys quite a fine situation. About eight miles to the north there are some excellent fishing lakes in the Qu'Appelle Valley. It has good hotels and several stores of which one of the best is kept by Mr. George P. Murray, brother to Mrs. D. H. Smith and Mrs. Annand of this town. We also met here Mr. A. T. McLellan of Pictou who is farming to advantage in this neighborhood.

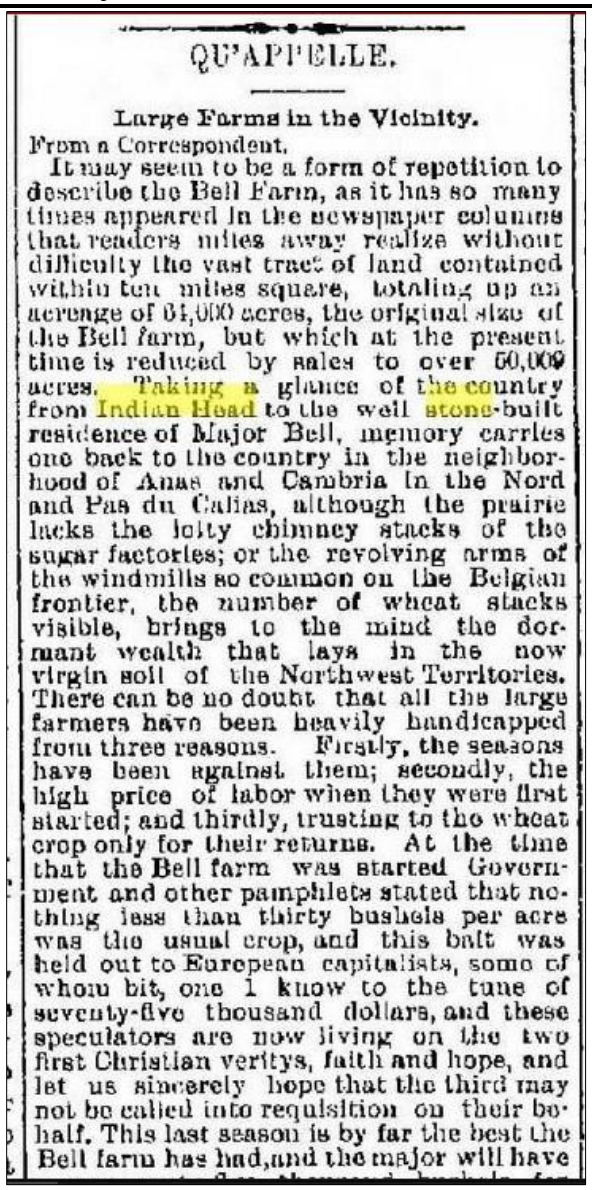
The C. P. R. Co. have built on a commanding site a fine hotel, which it is said will shortly be opened to the public. It was in this building that we saw one of the best shows of cereals, vegetables and other farm products we have yet visited.

Part 4 85 kb

1887- Nov. 29 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Bell Farm to be divided and sold

> "It is understood that the Bell Farm is to be divided and sold to homesteaders. Already several thousand acres have been so disposed of. Farming on a gigantic scale is found to be a doubtful success."

1887 – Dec. 6 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Large farms in the Qu'Appelle region -Bell, Sykes, Lister-Kaye, and Christ Church Settlement, under Tanner

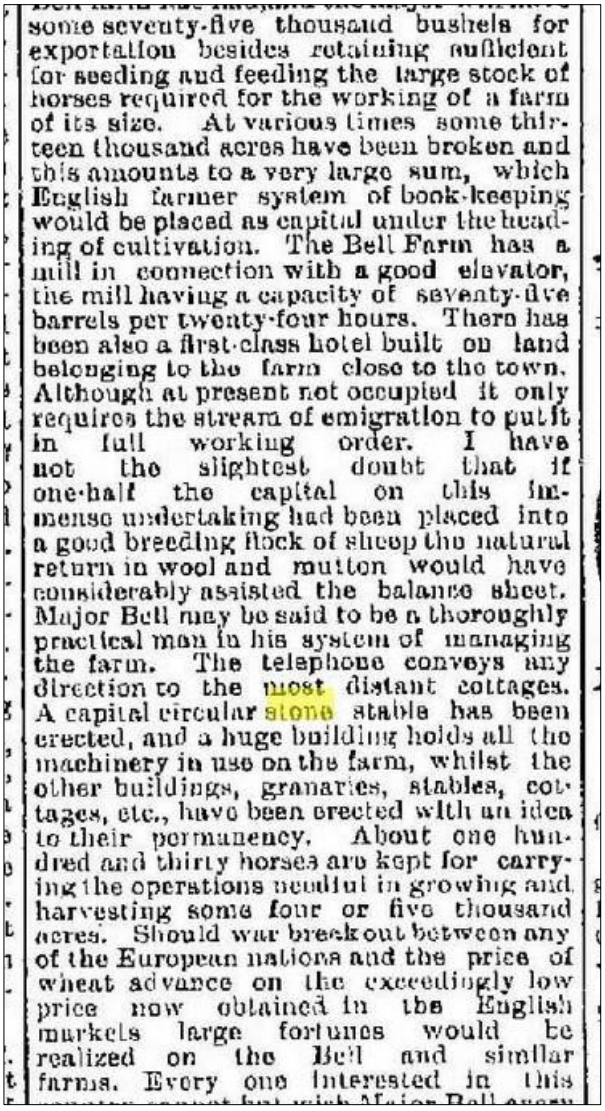


QU'APPELLE.

Large Farms in the Vicinity.

From a Correspondent.

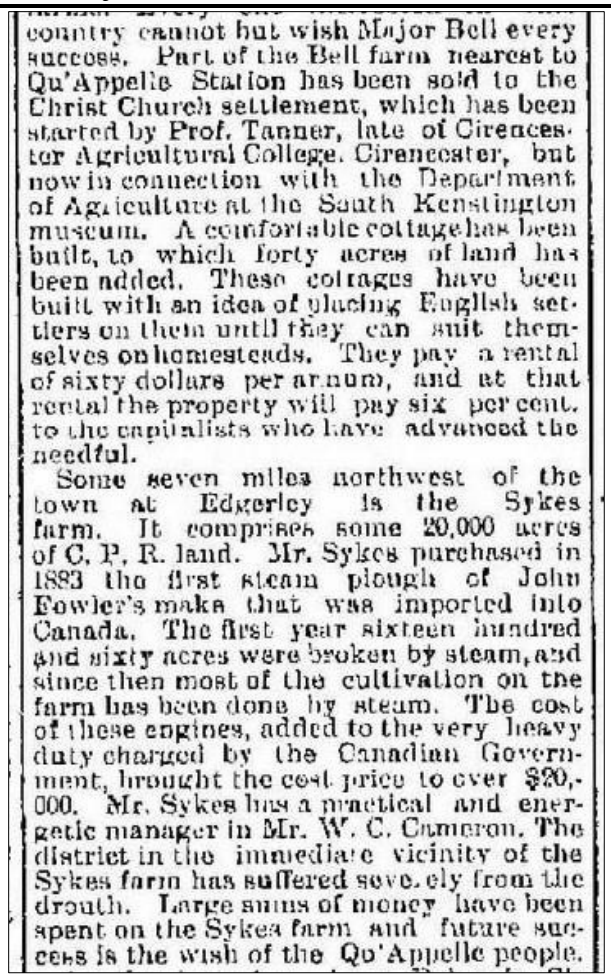
It may seem to be a form of repetition to describe the Bell Farm, as it has so many times appeared in the newspaper columns that readers miles away realize without difficulty the vast tract of land contained within ten miles square, totaling up an acreage of 64,000 acres, the original size of the Bell farm, but which at the present time is reduced by sales to over 50,000 acres. Taking a glance of the country from Indian Head to the well stone-built residence of Major Bell, memory carries one back to the country in the neighborhood of Anas and Cambria in the Nord and Pas du Calias, although the prairie lacks the lofty chimney stacks of the sugar factories; or the revolving arms of the windmills so common on the Belgian frontier, the number of wheat stacks visible, brings to the mind the dormant wealth that lays in the now virgin soil of the Northwest Territories. There can be no doubt that all the large farmers have been heavily handicapped from three reasons. Firstly, the seasons have been against them; secondly, the high price of labor when they were first started; and thirdly, trusting to the wheat crop only for their returns. At the time that the Bell farm was started Government and other pamphlets stated that nothing less than thirty bushels per acre was the usual crop, and this bait was held out to European capitalists, some of whom bit, one I know to the tune of seventy-five thousand dollars, and these speculators are now living on the two first Christian veritys, faith and hope, and let us sincerely hope that the third may not be called into requisition on their behalf. This last season is by far the best the Bell farm has had, and the major will have



some seventy-five thousand bushels for exportation besides retaining sufficient for seeding and feeding the large stock of horses required for the working of a farm of its size. At various times some thirteen thousand acres have been broken and this amounts to a very large sum, which English farmer system of book-keeping would be placed as capital under the heading of cultivation. The Bell Farm has a mill in connection with a good elevator, the mill having a capacity of seventy-five barrels per twenty-four hours. There has been also a first-class hotel built on land belonging to the farm close to the town. Although at present not occupied it only requires the stream of emigration to put it in full working order. I have not the slightest doubt that if one-half the capital on this immense undertaking had been placed into a good breeding flock of sheep the natural return in wool and mutton would have considerably assisted the balance sheet. Major Bell may be said to be a thoroughly practical man in his system of managing the farm. The telephone conveys any direction to the most distant cottages. A capital circular stone stable has been erected, and a huge building holds all the machinery in use on the farm, whilst the other buildings, granaries, stables, cottages, etc., have been erected with an idea to their permanency. About one hundred and thirty horses are kept for carrying the operations needful in growing and harvesting some four or five thousand acres. Should war break out between any of the European nations and the price of wheat advance on the exceedingly low price now obtained in the English markets large fortunes would be realized on the Bell and similar farms. Every one interested in this

Part 1 202 kb

Part 2 200 kb



country cannot but wish Major Bell every success. Part of the Bell farm nearest to Qu'Appelle Station has been sold to the Christ Church settlement, which has been started by Prof. Tanner, late of Cirencester Agricultural College, Cirencester, but now in connection with the Department of Agriculture at the South Kenstington museum. A comfortable cottage has been built, to which forty acres of land has been added. These cottages have been built with an idea of placing English settlers on them until they can suit themselves on homesteads. They pay a rental of sixty dollars per annum, and at that rental the property will pay six per cent. to the capitalists who have advanced the needful.

Some seven miles northwest of the town at Edgerley is the Sykes farm. It comprises some 20,000 acres of C. P. R. land. Mr. Sykes purchased in 1883 the first steam plough of John Fowler's make that was imported into Canada. The first year sixteen hundred and sixty acres were broken by steam, and since then most of the cultivation on the farm has been done by steam. The cost of these engines, added to the very heavy duty charged by the Canadian Government, brought the cost price to over $20,000. Mr. Sykes has a practical and energetic manager in Mr. W. C. Cameron. The district in the immediate vicinity of the Sykes farm has suffered severely from the drouth. Large sums of money have been spent on the Sykes farm and future success is the wish of the Qu'Appelle people.

Another large farm is at Balgonie, Sir Lyster Kaye's. Over a thousand acres were planted last year. It was Sir Lyster's intention to start ten farms of ten thousand acres each on the route of the C. P. R. west. Sir Lyster has a gentlemanly and practical manager in Mr. Blackburne.

In conclusion, my opinion is that had some portion of the capital invested in wheat-growing been judiciously laid out in stock the returns of the large farms in this district would have been materially increased.

L. D. L.

Qu'Appelle Nov. 30.

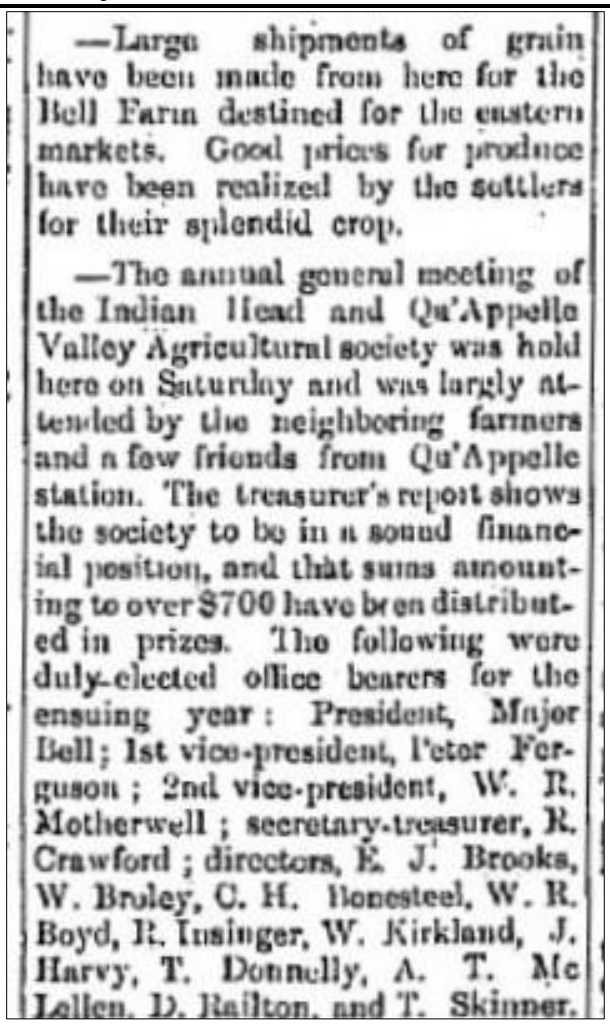
Part 1 172 kb

Part 2 89 kb

1887 – Dec. 6 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Insinger (former Bell Farm employee)

p. 1 - "Mr. R. Insinger leaves by early morning train for Amsterdam."

1887 – Dec. 8– *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1 – Bell Farm shipping grain; Ag. Society elects Bell as president



—Large shipments of grain have been made from here for the Bell Farm destined for the eastern markets. Good prices for produce have been realized by the settlers for their splendid crop.

—The annual general meeting of the Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural society was held here on Saturday and was largly attended by the neighboring farmers and a few friends from Qu'Appelle station. The treasurer's report shows the society to be in a sound financial position, and that sums amounting to over $700 have been distributed in prizes. The following were duly elected office bearers for the ensuing year: President, Major Bell; 1st vice-president, Peter Ferguson; 2nd vice-president, W. R. Motherwell; secretary-treasurer, R. Crawford; directors, E. J. Brooks, W. Broley, C. H. Bonesteel, W. R. Boyd, R. Insinger, W. Kirkland, J. Harvy, T. Donnelly, A. T. Mc Lellen, D. Railton, and T. Skinner.

81 kb

1887 – Dec. 10 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Major Bell Elected President of the Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society

1887 – Dec. 12 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell at Winnipeg's Queen's Hotel

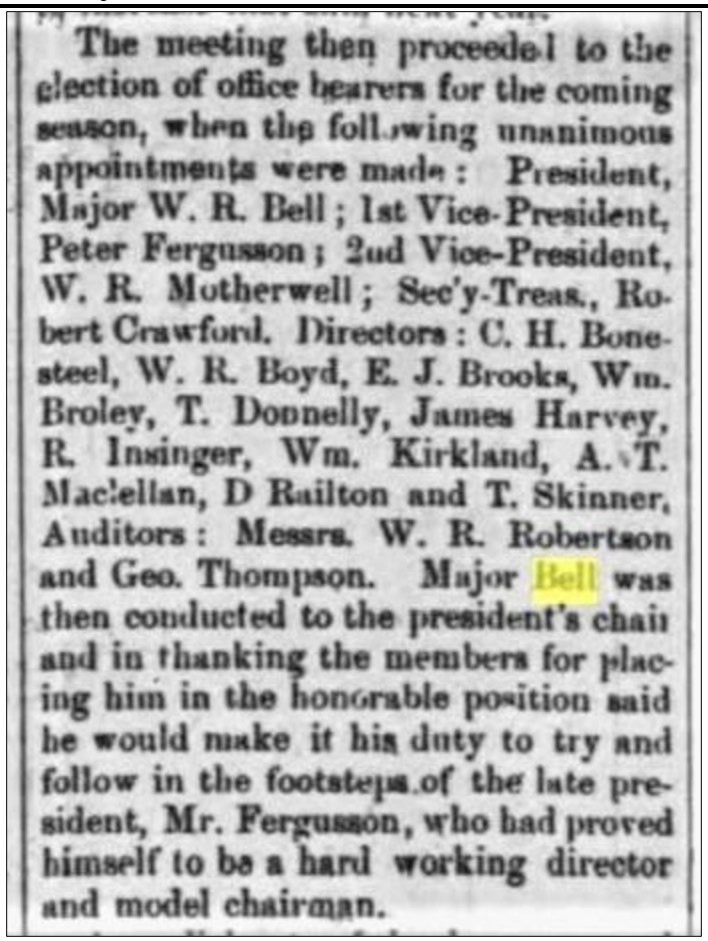
> "PERSONAL – Major Bell of Indian Head, is at the Queen's."

1887 – Dec. 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Major Bell leaves Winnipeg for Ottawa

> "At the Grand Union are . . . . .Dr. Allen, of Fort McLeod, W.F. Perley, M.P. of East Assiniboia, Captain White of Dunmore, and Major Bell of Indian Head, left for Ottawa yesterday."

1887 – Dec. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> **"Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society:** . The fourth annual general meeting of the Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agriculture Society was held in the Commercial Hotel on Saturday last., ... " [Among those present . . . Motherwell, Jos. Glenn, Major Bell, Thomas Skinner. . . . . Officers elected for the next year include:]



The meeting then proceeded to the election of office bearers for the coming season, when the following unanimous appointments were made: President, Major W. R. Bell; 1st Vice-President, Peter Fergusson; 2nd Vice-President, W. R. Motherwell; Sec'y-Treas., Robert Crawford. Directors: C. H. Bonesteel, W. R. Boyd, E. J. Brooks, Wm. Broley, T. Donnelly, James Harvey, R. Insinger, Wm. Kirkland, A. T. Macleilan, D Railton and T. Skinner, Auditors: Messrs. W. R. Robertson and Geo. Thompson. Major Bell was then conducted to the president's chair and in thanking the members for placing him in the honorable position said he would make it his duty to try and follow in the footsteps of the late president, Mr. Fergusson, who had proved himself to be a hard working director and model chairman.

94 kb

1887 – Dec. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Presbyterian Church renovations: pews replace chairs

> "INDIAN HEAD – The Presbyterian church is to be rescated: pews are to take the place of chairs now in use. Subscriptions are coming in freely for this purpose."

1887 – Dec. 16 – *Ottawa Evening Journal*, p. 1 – Major & Mrs. Bell en route to New York

> "**The Bell Farm** – Major Bell, principal owner of the famous Bell farm at Indian Head, is in town accompanied by Mrs. Bell. He is on his way to New York to complete arrangements for shipping his grain there via Brockville."

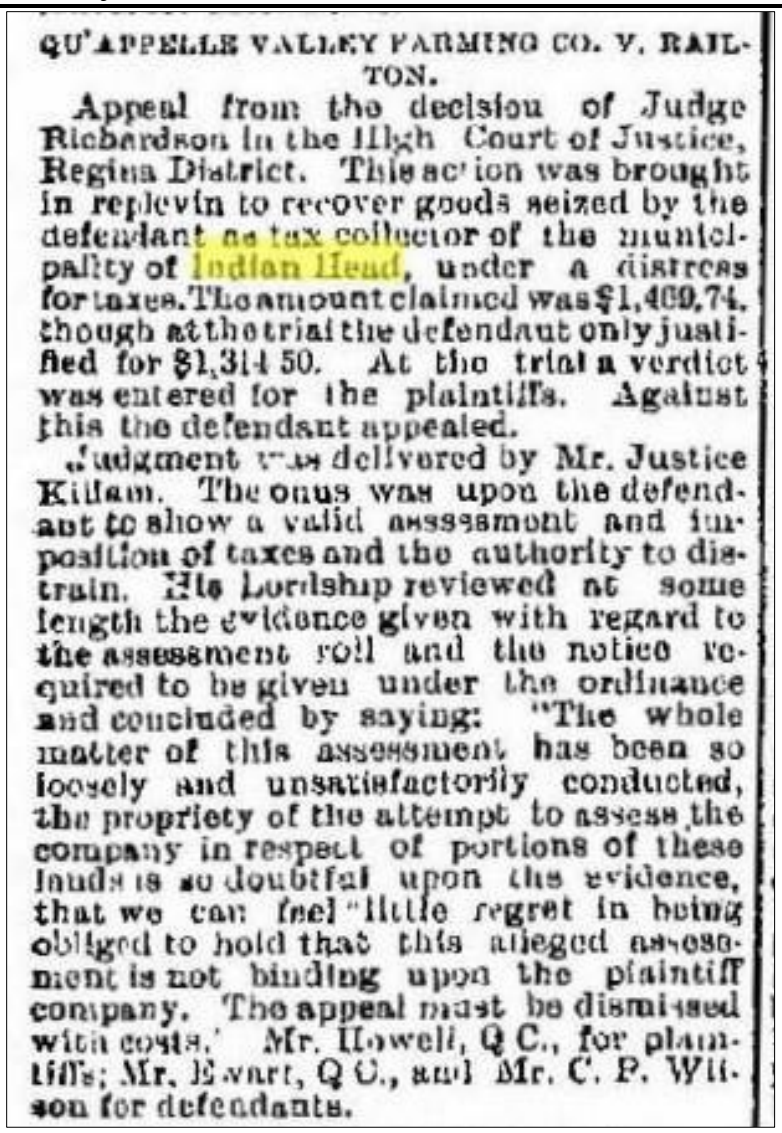
1887 – Dec. 17 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 4 – Bell in Ottawa en route to New York

> "Major Bell, owner of the Bell farm at Indian Head, is in the city en route to New York, to make arrangements for the shipment of his grain via Brockville."

1887 – Dec. 17 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 8 – Major & Mrs. Bell and Robert Crawford in Ottawa

> "HOTEL ARRIVALS: The Russell – Major and Mrs. W.R. Bell, Indian Head, N.W.T. . . . . Grand Union – Robert Crawford, Indian Head, N.W.T."

1887 – Dec. 19 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Court Case: Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company vs Railton



QU'APPELLE VALLEY FARMING CO. V. RAILTON.

Appeal from the decision of Judge Richardson in the High Court of Justice, Regina District. This action was brought in replevin to recover goods seized by the defendant as tax collector of the municipality of Indian Head, under a distress for taxes. The amount claimed was $1,409.74, though at the trial the defendant only justified for $1,314 50. At the trial a verdict was entered for the plaintiffs. Against this the defendant appealed.

Judgment was delivered by Mr. Justice Killam. The onus was upon the defendant to show a valid assessment and imposition of taxes and the authority to distrain. His Lordship reviewed at some length the evidence given with regard to the assessment roll and the notice required to be given under the ordinance and concluded by saying: "The whole matter of this assessment has been so loosely and unsatisfactorily conducted, the propriety of the attempt to assess the company in respect of portions of these lands is so doubtful upon the evidence, that we can feel little regret in being obliged to hold that this alleged assessment is not binding upon the plaintiff company. The appeal must be dismissed with costs.' Mr. Howell, Q C., for plaintiffs; Mr. Ewart, Q C., and Mr. C. P. Wilson for defendants.

119 kb

1887 – Dec. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* – p. 4 – Major Bell re-elected to Council by acclamation

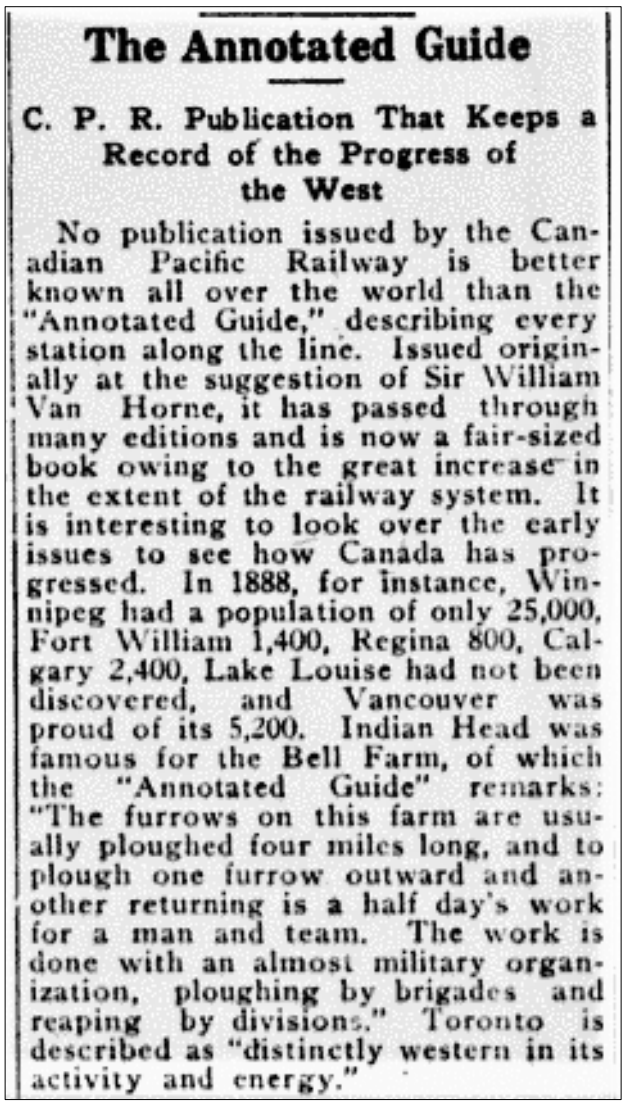
> **"INDIAN HEAD** – The nominations for the municipal council were held on Monday. The following were nominated and elected by acclamation: Major Bell, E.J. Brooks, W. Kirkland, P. Ferguson, Robt. Sanderson, R. Davis, and Jas. Ewart.
>
> A public meeting was held in the afternoon which was addressed by the retiring councillors and those newly elected."

1888

1888 – [Sale of part of the Bell Farm to create the federal government's Dominion Experimental Farm]

1888 - Agreement between R.B. Angus and the Bell Farm Company – check for details

1888 – Annotated Guide for CPR (as reported in *Blairmore Enterprise,* 12 Jan. 1917, p. 6; and at least four other Alberta newspapers: *Bellevue Times, Empress Express, Chinook Advance, Bassano Mail,*)



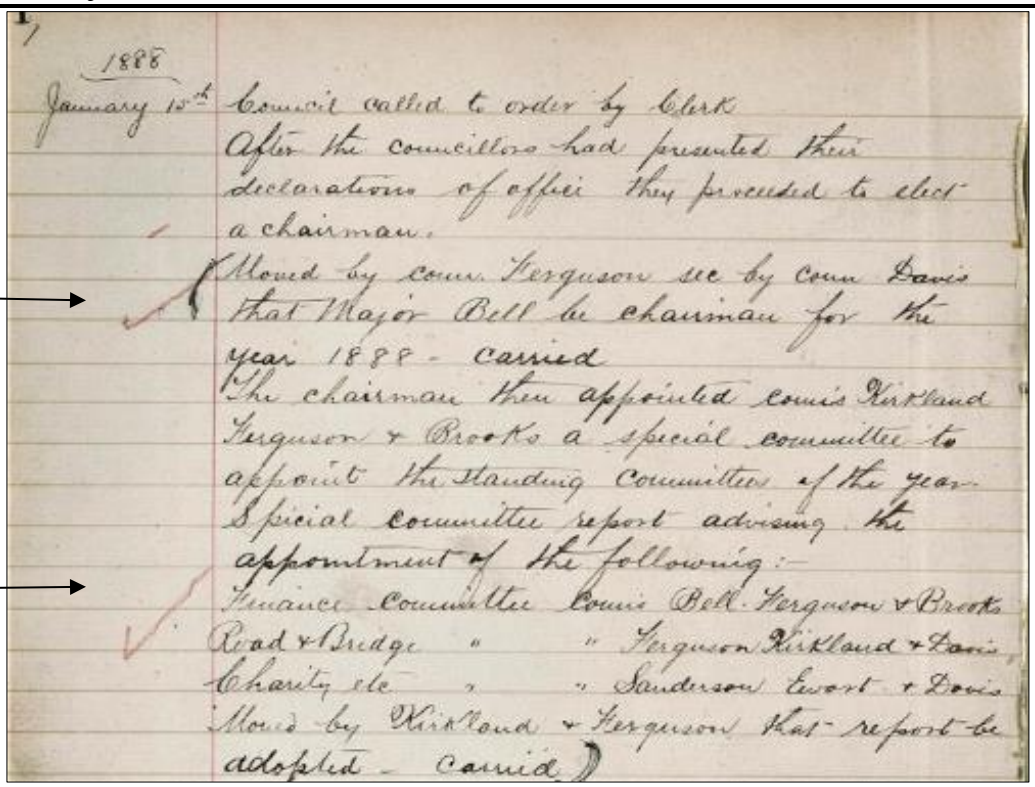
The Annotated Guide

C. P. R. Publication That Keeps a Record of the Progress of the West

No publication issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway is better known all over the world than the "Annotated Guide," describing every station along the line. Issued originally at the suggestion of Sir William Van Horne, it has passed through many editions and is now a fair-sized book owing to the great increase in the extent of the railway system. It is interesting to look over the early issues to see how Canada has progressed. In 1888, for instance, Winnipeg had a population of only 25,000, Fort William 1,400, Regina 800, Calgary 2,400, Lake Louise had not been discovered, and Vancouver was proud of its 5,200. Indian Head was famous for the Bell Farm, of which the "Annotated Guide" remarks: "The furrows on this farm are usually ploughed four miles long, and to plough one furrow outward and another returning is a half day's work for a man and team. The work is done with an almost military organization, ploughing by brigades and reaping by divisions." Toronto is described as "distinctly western in its activity and energy."

106 kb

1888 - Jan 1 – RM of Indian Head Minutes – Major Bell appointed Chairman of the RM Council, and a member of the Finance Committee.



1888
January 16th Council called to order by Clerk
After the councillors had presented their declarations of office they proceeded to elect a chairman.
Moved by Coun Ferguson sec by Coun Davis that Major Bell be chairman for the year 1888 - carried
The chairman then appointed Couns Kirkland Ferguson & Brooks a special committee to appoint the standing committees of the year.
Special committee report advising the appointment of the following:-
Finance Committee Couns Bell Ferguson & Brooks
Road & Bridge " " Ferguson Kirkland & Davis
Charity etc " " Sanderson Ewart & Davis
Moved by Kirkland & Ferguson that report be adopted - carried

200 kb

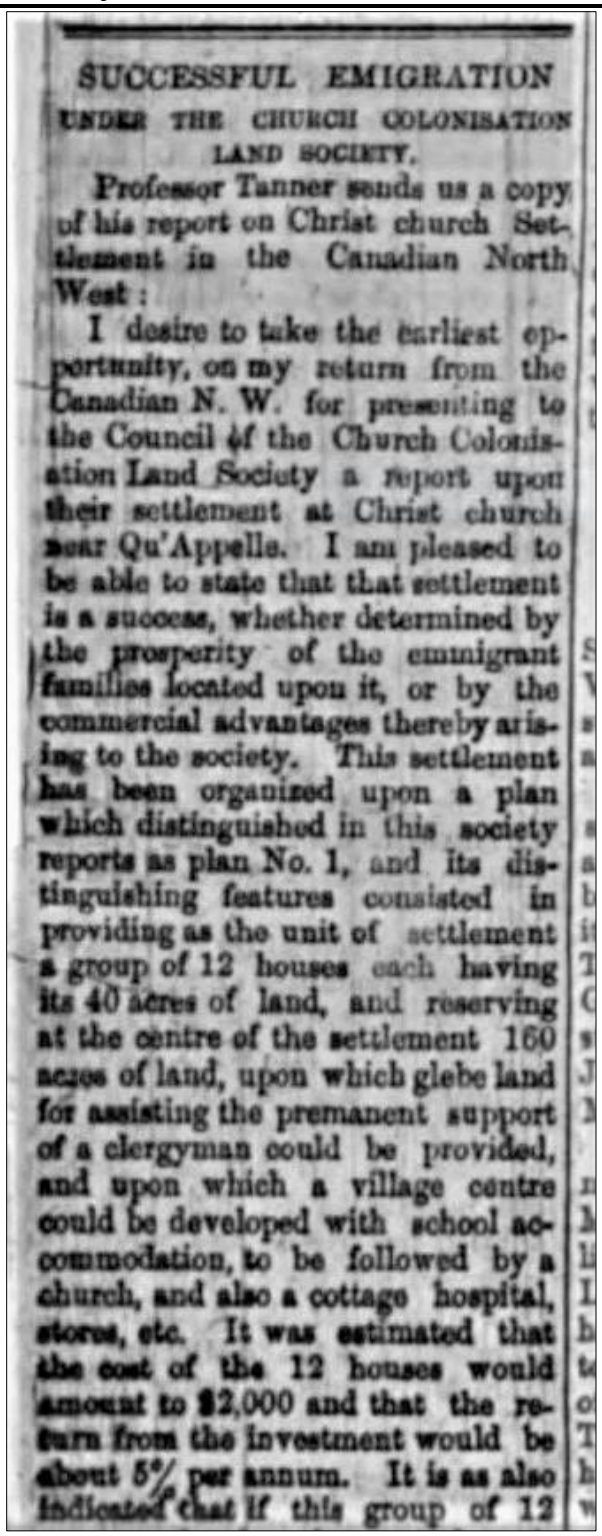
(Source: Glenbow Archives: Series 4: M-6531-20: Legal Documents: 1887-1890)

1888 – Jan. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Major Bell elected Chair of R.M. Council

"Indian Head. The Major returned from the east on Monday morning, the 16th inst. . . The new Indian Head Municipal Council met on Monday and took the oath of office. Their first business was the election of Major Bell to the chair, the appointment of Mr. D. McLane, auditor, and Mr. GP Murray, treasurer."

1888 – Jan. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 2 – Prof. Tanner's Report and Major Bell on Municipal Council

Professor Tanner's Report:

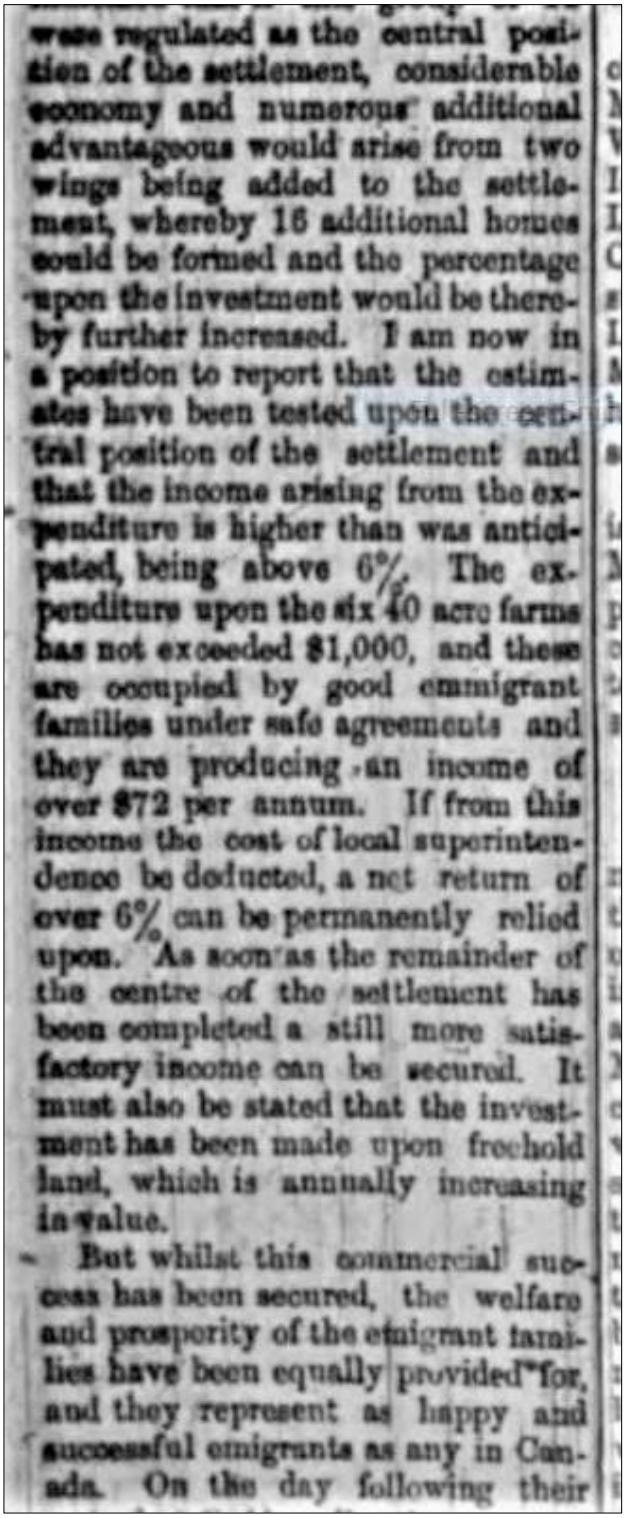


SUCCESSFUL EMIGRATION

UNDER THE CHURCH COLONISATION LAND SOCIETY.

Professor Tanner sends us a copy of his report on Christ church Settlement in the Canadian North West :

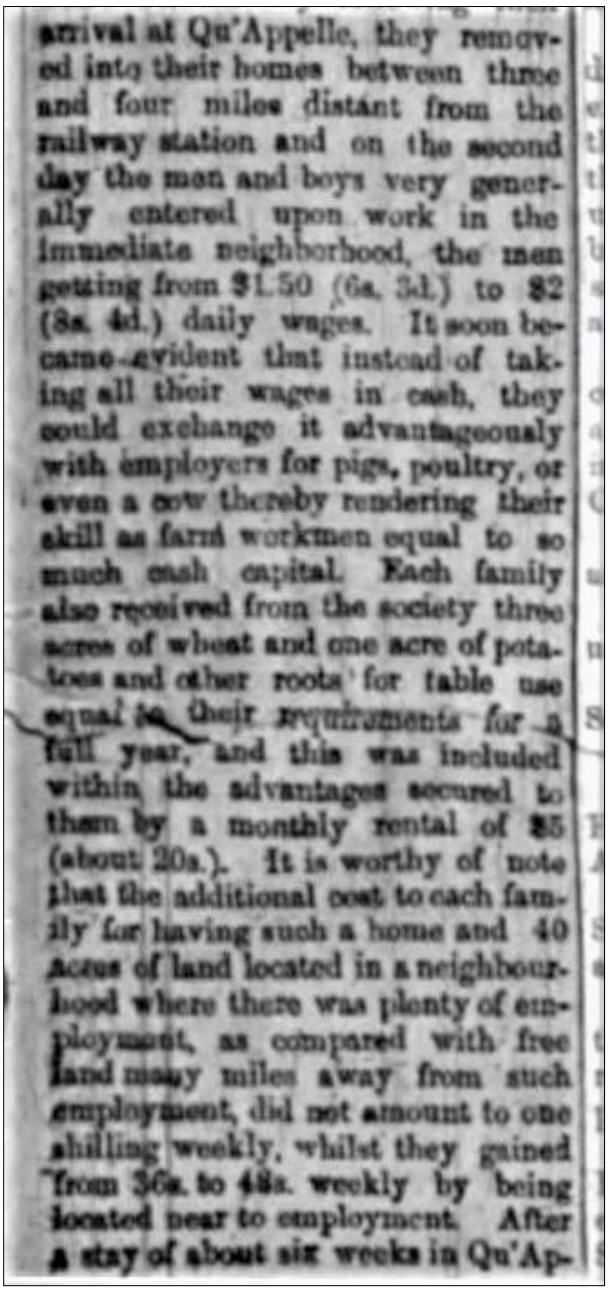
I desire to take the earliest opportunity, on my return from the Canadian N. W. for presenting to the Council of the Church Colonisation Land Society a report upon their settlement at Christ church near Qu'Appelle. I am pleased to be able to state that that settlement is a success, whether determined by the prosperity of the emmigrant families located upon it, or by the commercial advantages thereby arising to the society. This settlement has been organized upon a plan which distinguished in this society reports as plan No. 1, and its distinguishing features consisted in providing as the unit of settlement a group of 12 houses each having its 40 acres of land, and reserving at the centre of the settlement 160 acres of land, upon which glebe land for assisting the premanent support of a clergyman could be provided, and upon which a village centre could be developed with school accommodation, to be followed by a church, and also a cottage hospital, stores, etc. It was estimated that the cost of the 12 houses would amount to $2,000 and that the return from the investment would be about 5% per annum. It is as also indicated that if this group of 12



were regulated as the central position of the settlement, considerable economy and numerous additional advantageous would arise from two wings being added to the settlement, whereby 16 additional homes could be formed and the percentage upon the investment would be thereby further increased. I am now in a position to report that the estimates have been tested upon the central position of the settlement and that the income arising from the expenditure is higher than was anticipated, being above 6%. The expenditure upon the six 40 acre farms has not exceeded $1,000, and these are occupied by good emmigrant families under safe agreements and they are producing an income of over $72 per annum. If from this income the cost of local superintendence be deducted, a net return of over 6% can be permanently relied upon. As soon as the remainder of the centre of the settlement has been completed a still more satisfactory income can be secured. It must also be stated that the investment has been made upon freehold land, which is annually increasing in value.

But whilst this commercial success has been secured, the welfare and prosperity of the emigrant families have been equally provided for, and they represent as happy and successful emigrants as any in Canada. On the day following their

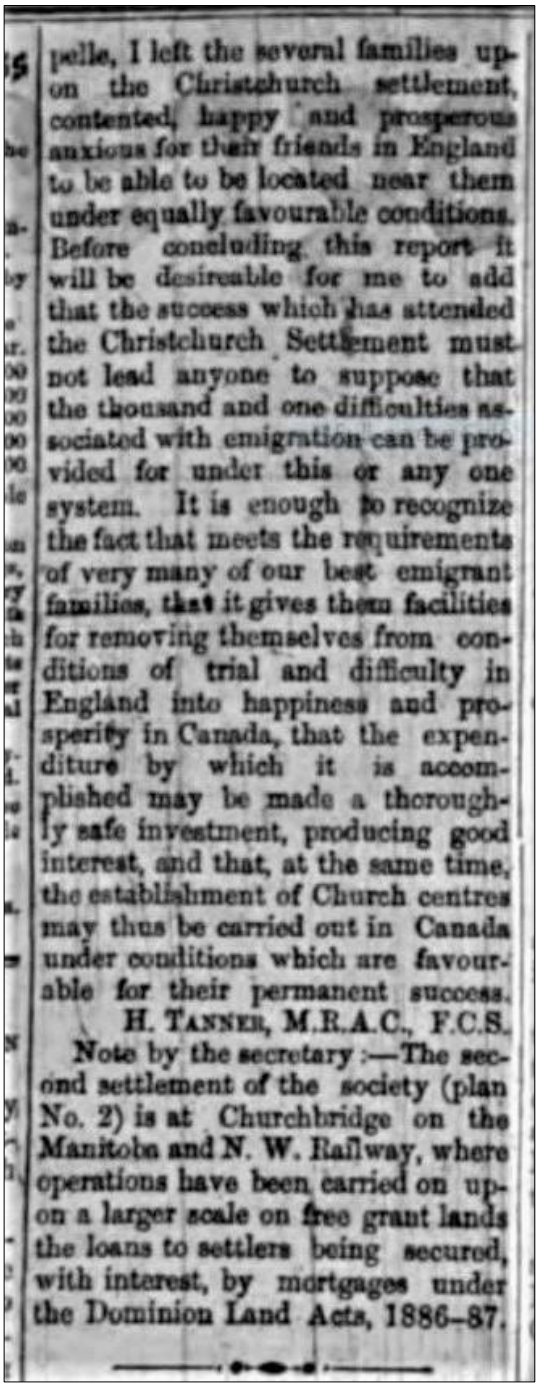
Part 1 Part 2



arrival at Qu'Appelle, they removed into their homes between three and four miles distant from the railway station and on the second day the men and boys very generally entered upon work in the immediate neighborhood, the men getting from $1.50 (6s. 3d.) to $2 (8s. 4d.) daily wages. It soon became evident that instead of taking all their wages in cash, they could exchange it advantageously with employers for pigs, poultry, or even a cow thereby rendering their skill as farm workmen equal to so much cash capital. Each family also received from the society three acres of wheat and one acre of potatoes and other roots for table use equal to their requirements for a full year, and this was included within the advantages secured to them by a monthly rental of $5 (about 20s.). It is worthy of note that the additional cost to each family for having such a home and 40 acres of land located in a neighbourhood where there was plenty of employment, as compared with free land many miles away from such employment, did not amount to one shilling weekly, whilst they gained from 36s. to 48s. weekly by being located near to employment. After a stay of about six weeks in Qu'Appelle, I left the several families upon the Christchurch settlement, contented, happy and prosperous anxious for their friends in England to be able to be located near them under equally favourable conditions. Before concluding this report it will be desireable for me to add that the success which has attended the Christchurch Settlement must not lead anyone to suppose that the thousand and one difficulties associated with emigration can be provided for under this or any one system. It is enough to recognize the fact that meets the requirements of very many of our best emigrant families, that it gives them facilities for removing themselves from conditions of trial and difficulty in England into happiness and prosperity in Canada, that the expenditure by which it is accomplished may be made a thoroughly safe investment, producing good interest, and that, at the same time, the establishment of Church centres may thus be carried out in Canada under conditions which are favourable for their permanent success.

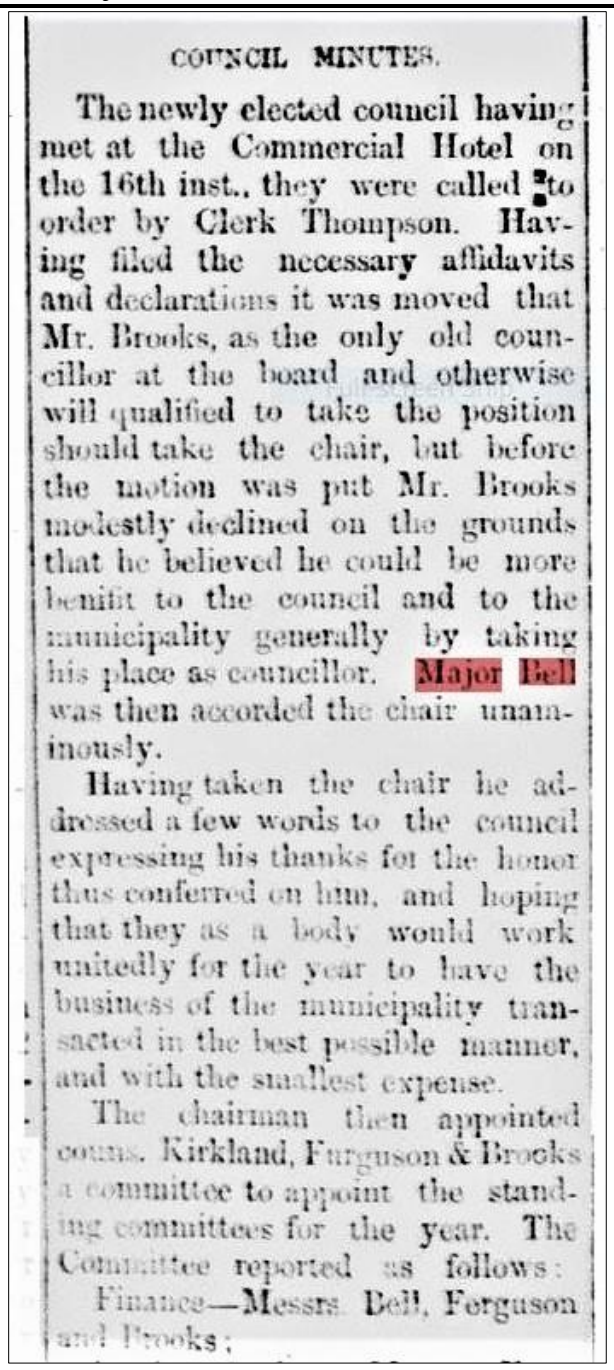
H. TANNER, M.R.A.C., F.C.S.

Note by the secretary :—The second settlement of the society (plan No. 2) is at Churchbridge on the Manitoba and N. W. Railway, where operations have been carried on upon a larger scale on free grant lands the loans to settlers being secured, with interest, by mortgages under the Dominion Land Acts, 1886–87.



Part 3 Part 4

Major Bell , chairman of Rural Municipal Council:



COUNCIL MINUTES.

The newly elected council having met at the Commercial Hotel on the 16th inst., they were called to order by Clerk Thompson. Having filed the necessary affidavits and declarations it was moved that Mr. Brooks, as the only old councillor at the board and otherwise will qualified to take the position should take the chair, but before the motion was put Mr. Brooks modestly declined on the grounds that he believed he could be more benifit to the council and to the municipality generally by taking his place as councillor. Major Bell was then accorded the chair unanimously.

Having taken the chair he addressed a few words to the council expressing his thanks for the honor thus conferred on him, and hoping that they as a body would work unitedly for the year to have the business of the municipality transacted in the best possible manner, and with the smallest expense.

The chairman then appointed couns. Kirkland, Furguson & Brooks a committee to appoint the standing committees for the year. The Committee reported as follows:

Finance—Messrs. Bell, Ferguson and Brooks;

144 kb

1888 – Jan. 29 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

"Indian Head. The Major returned from the east on Monday morning, the 16th inst. . . The new Indian Head Municipal Council met on Monday and took the oath of office. Their first business was the election of Major Bell to the chair, the appointment of Mr. D. McLane, auditor, and Mr. GP Murray, treasurer."

1888 – Feb. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*, p. 4 – New Experimental Farm to be at Bell Farm, Indian Head

"The Government has reached a conclusion in the matter of a site for the Territorial experimental farm, and has selected a section on the Bell Farm, on the C.P.R., about a

mile from Indian Head. Operations will be begun at once. The Regina people, however, expect to get a "branch" of the farm in their city."

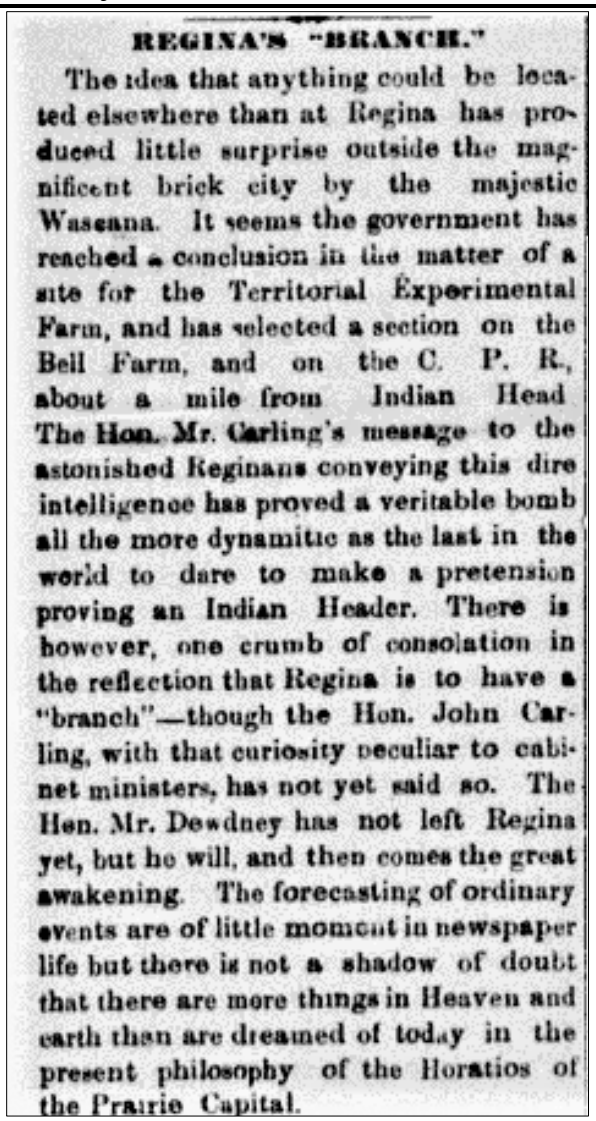
1888 – Feb. 18 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Establishment of the Experimental Farm on Bell Farm lands

"The government has decided to locate the government experimental farm of the North West on the C.P.R., about one mile from Indian Head on the Bell farm. Operations will be commenced at once."

1888 – Feb. 21 – *Montreal Daily Herald,* p. 1 – Bell in Ottawa to discuss railway development

" Major Bell has been to Ottawa in connection with the Inland Manitoba and Western Railway project. This involves building a line from Port Arthur to Moosomin, touching at Portage La Prairie and Brandon, branching off to Turtle Mountain, connecting with the Duluth and iron range and embracing the purchase of the Red River Valley. Assistance from the Dominion and Manitoba Governments will be asked. Major Bell believes the Dominion Government has decided to offer no further opposition to the Red River Valley Railway."

1888 – Feb. 22 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 3 – Part of Bell Farm to be new Experimental Farm



REGINA'S "BRANCH."

The idea that anything could be located elsewhere than at Regina has produced little surprise outside the magnificent brick city by the majestic Wascana. It seems the government has reached a conclusion in the matter of a site for the Territorial Experimental Farm, and has selected a section on the Bell Farm, and on the C. P. R., about a mile from Indian Head The Hon. Mr. Carling's message to the astonished Reginans conveying this dire intelligence has proved a veritable bomb all the more dynamitic as the last in the world to dare to make a pretension proving an Indian Header. There is however, one crumb of consolation in the reflection that Regina is to have a "branch"—though the Hon. John Carling, with that curiosity peculiar to cabinet ministers, has not yet said so. The Hon. Mr. Dewdney has not left Regina yet, but he will, and then comes the great awakening. The forecasting of ordinary events are of little moment in newspaper life but there is not a shadow of doubt that there are more things in Heaven and earth than are dreamed of today in the present philosophy of the Horatios of the Prairie Capital.

55 kb

1888 – Feb. 23 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Part of Bell Farm selected for Experimental Farm

> "**PROVINCIAL.** The Government has selected a section on the Bell Farm, about a mile from Indian Head, for the Territorial experimental farm."

1888 – March 10 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – House of Commons debates: Major Bell's involvement with railways

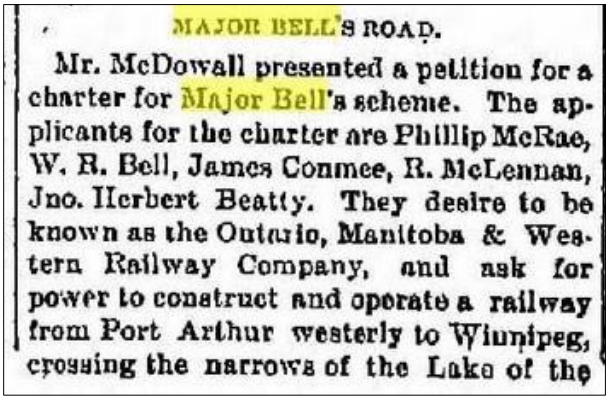
> "March 2 - . . . In the House to-day the petition of the Manitoba North-Western railway to be allowed to construct only twenty miles a year was read and received. The time for receiving private bills was extended to March 24th.
>
> The conference arranged for between the federal and Manitoba governments is exciting considerable interest here. The opinion is general that disallowance is at an end. There is no talk about Major Bell's proposed line entering into the discussion at all and it is probable that the conference will be limited to the Red River Valley line. . . . .
>
> March 7 - . . . . People here think Manitoba an the North-West are bound to have sufficient railways as so many people interested in new roads are to be seen around the parliament

buildings. Major Bell, Hugh Sutherland, Col. Scobie, and T.W. Jackson are actively looking after their respective interests."

1888 – March 15 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

"**Indian Head**. . . The Bell Farm is being broken up. Some time ago, the directors sent word to discharge all the men employed on the farm and that they would no longer be responsible for their wages. The Commercial Bank, which is a large creditor, took action and seized the implements, steamers etc. It is likely that the mortgages will split up the once-famous place into small farms."

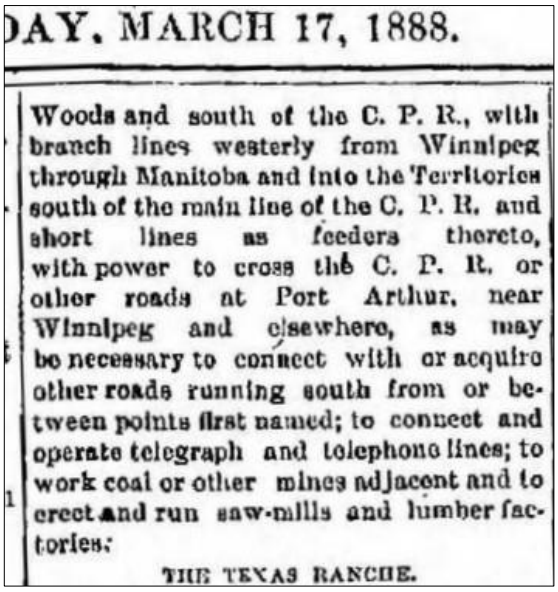
1888 – March 17 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 1 – Major Bell's petition in Parliament for a Ontario, Manitoba and Western Railway Company charter



MAJOR BELL'S ROAD.

Mr. McDowall presented a petition for a charter for Major Bell's scheme. The applicants for the charter are Phillip McRae, W. R. Bell, James Conmee, R. McLennan, Jno. Herbert Beatty. They desire to be known as the Ontario, Manitoba & Western Railway Company, and ask for power to construct and operate a railway from Port Arthur westerly to Winnipeg, crossing the narrows of the Lake of the

82 kb



DAY, MARCH 17, 1888.

Woods and south of the C. P. R., with branch lines westerly from Winnipeg through Manitoba and into the Territories south of the main line of the C. P. R. and short lines as feeders thereto, with power to cross the C. P. R. or other roads at Port Arthur, near Winnipeg and elsewhere, as may be necessary to connect with or acquire other roads running south from or between points first named; to connect and operate telegraph and telephone lines; to work coal or other mines adjacent and to erect and run saw-mills and lumber factories:

THE TEXAS RANCHE.

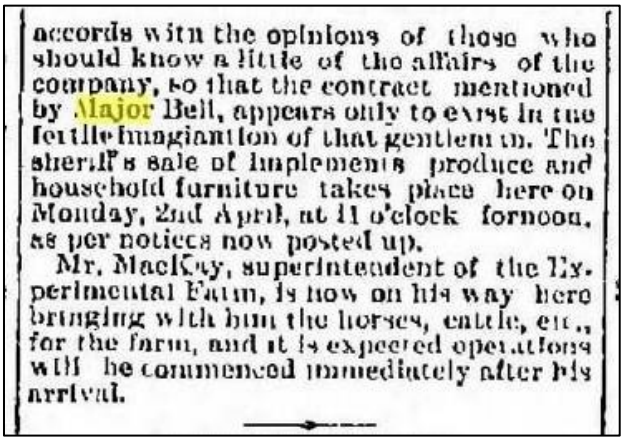
94 kb

1888 – March 25 – *Man. Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – George Strevel reportedly hired by Bell to work at the Bell Farm

THE BELL FARM.

Major Bell's Statements Disbelieved—Stock for the Northwest Experimental Farm.

INDIAN HEAD, N.W.T., March 22.—The statement made by Major Bell while in Ottawa, that he had employed the teams of Mr. George Strevel to do the work of the Bell Farm for the year and that operations would be as extensive as heretofore, caused considerable stir and surprise in town. A late employee of the farm company has written to a friend here that he has just seen Mr. Strevel who says that the only knowledge of such a contract existing, he gained from the Free Press. This seems pretty sure information and



accords with the opinions of those who should know a little of the affairs of the company, so that the contract mentioned by Major Bell, appears only to exist in the fertile imagination of that gentleman. The sheriff's sale of implements produce and household furniture takes place here on Monday, 2nd April, at 11 o'clock forenoon, as per notices now posted up.

Mr. MacKay, superintendent of the Experimental Farm, is now on his way here bringing with him the horses, cattle, etc., for the farm, and it is expected operations will be commenced immediately after his arrival.

1888 – March 29 – *Victoria Daily Colonist*, page 3:
http://archive.org/stream/dailycolonist18880329uvic/18880329#page/n3/mode/1up/search/indian+head

> "**Gone to Smash.** The great Bell Farm at Indian Head, N.W.T., is broken up. Some time ago the directors sent word to discharge all the men employed on the farm and they would no longer be responsible for their wages. The Commercial Bank, which is the large creditor, took action and seized the implements, steamers, etc. It is likely that the mortgagees will split up the once famous place into small farms."

1888 – April 3 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – To Seed 2,000 Acres on leased land

> "**The Bell Farm** A Winnipeg paper says Major Bell has leased the unsold portion of the Bell Farm from the company for this season and will put in a crop. Two thousand acres were ploughed last fall and will be seeded so soon as the frost is out."

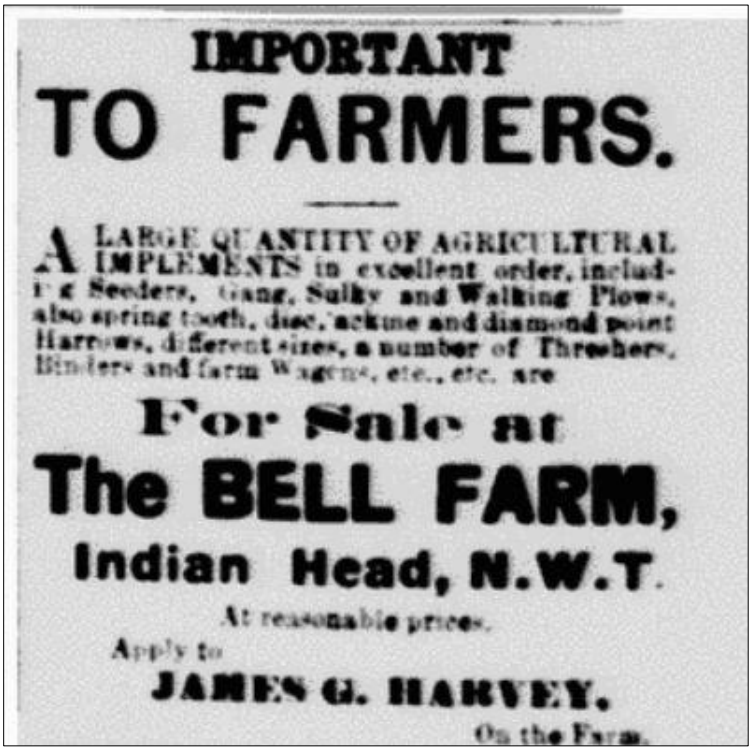
1888 – April 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1

> "INDIAN HEAD . . . . . The sheriff's sale of the stock and effects of the Bell Farm, which was advertised to be held on Monday last, was indefinitely postponed, until it was decided whether the sheriff had the legal right to sell under the executions that had been obtained."

1888 – April 7 – *Edmonton Bulletin,* p. 4 – Major Bell leases land

> "Major Bell has leased the unsold portions of the Bell Farm and will put in a crop this spring."

1888 – April 26, May 3, 10, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19 – *Brandon Mail* – advertisement for sale of Bell Farm agricultural implements by James G. Harvey, a Bell Farm employee since 1885


IMPORTANT
TO FARMERS.

A LARGE QUANTITY OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS in excellent order, including Seeders, Gang, Sulky and Walking Plows, also spring tooth, disc, ackune and diamond point Harrows, different sizes, a number of Threshers, Binders and farm Wagons, etc., etc. are

For Sale at
The BELL FARM,
Indian Head, N.W.T.

At reasonable prices.

Apply to
JAMES G. HARVEY,
On the Farm.

43 kb

1888 – May 9 – *Calgary Weekly Herald*, p. 6 – Major Bell plants 1000 acres of grain

"**REGINA -** Mr. A.W. Daggs, who has been at Indian Head for some days, says Major Bell put in 1000 acres of grain last week , and is putting in another thousand."

1888 – May 10– *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4 - Bell and Flour Mill

"Indian Head. . . . The Bell Farm Co. have seeded about 2,000 acres this spring. . . . Major Bell has been doing some fine shooting lately. His rifle speaks and down comes the bird. . . . . A petition is being circulated for signatures among the ratepayers for presentation to the municipal council asking that a bylaw be submitted to a vote of the electors for the purpose of granting a bonus to secure the operation of the flouring mill. It will likely be presented to the council at the meeting on Saturday."

[Bell and nominations for the northwest council, copied. It must be noted that the editor of the *Qu'Appelle Progress* is a raging prohibitionist; a member of the Royal Templars of Temperance. His "Home and Gossip" column is liberally sprinkled with "Vote for GS Davidson" and, in the June 28,1888 issue, he reprints the letter he had Davidson sign that he would oppose the "license of intoxicating liquors in the territories." After Davidson wins the election, the editor writes a long column about the "soreheads of Indian Head."]

1888 – May 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Indian Head council – Major Bell – chairman

"INDIAN HEAD – Council Minutes – The Council met in the Council Room, Indian Head, on May 12th, at 10"45 o'clock.

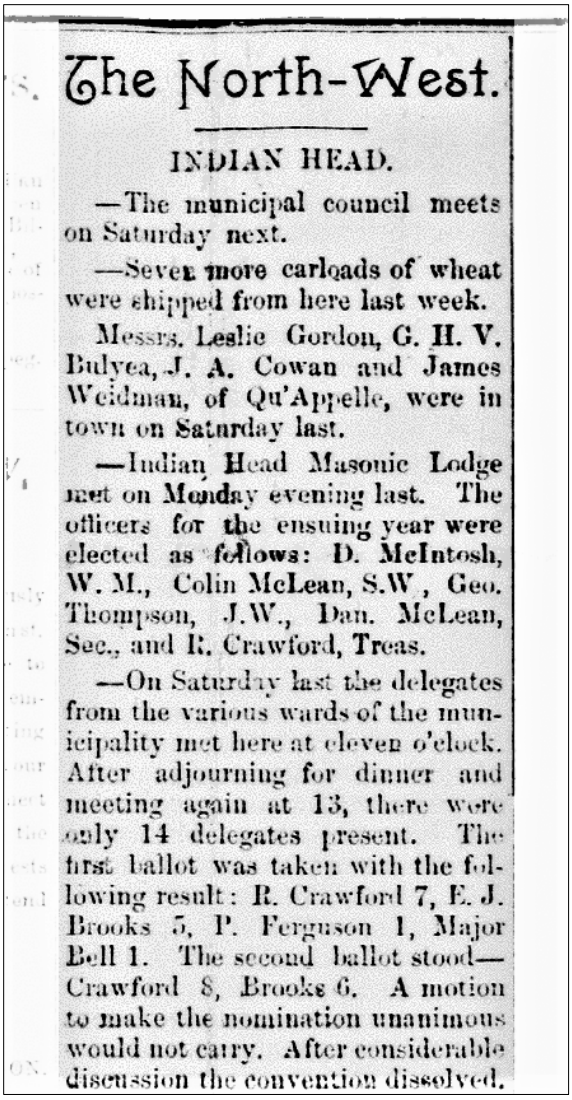
Present: W.R. Bell, Chairman; Councillors Sanderson, Ferguson, Davis, Kirkland. . . . . ."

1888 – May 31 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 1 – Bell Farm Hotel is put up for rent

"The North-West – INDIAN HEAD. The brick hotel is advertised for sale or rent." (FRANK: this would be the Bell Farm hotel.)

"Tuesday last was the day fixed for holding a convention here for the nomination of a candidate to represent South Qu'Appelle in the Northwest Legislature. There were present Major Bell, Messrs. P. Ferguson, J. Semple, W. Johnston, W.R. Boyd, Jas. Harvey, E. Williamson, and ___ McLellan. In some of the wards delegates had not been appointed, owing it was claimed to insufficiency of notice. The delegates present decided as all the wards were not represented, to adjourn till Saturday next, then to meet at eleven o'clock.

1888 – 7 June – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 1 – Bell and Indian Head Agricultural Society meeting



The North-West.

INDIAN HEAD.

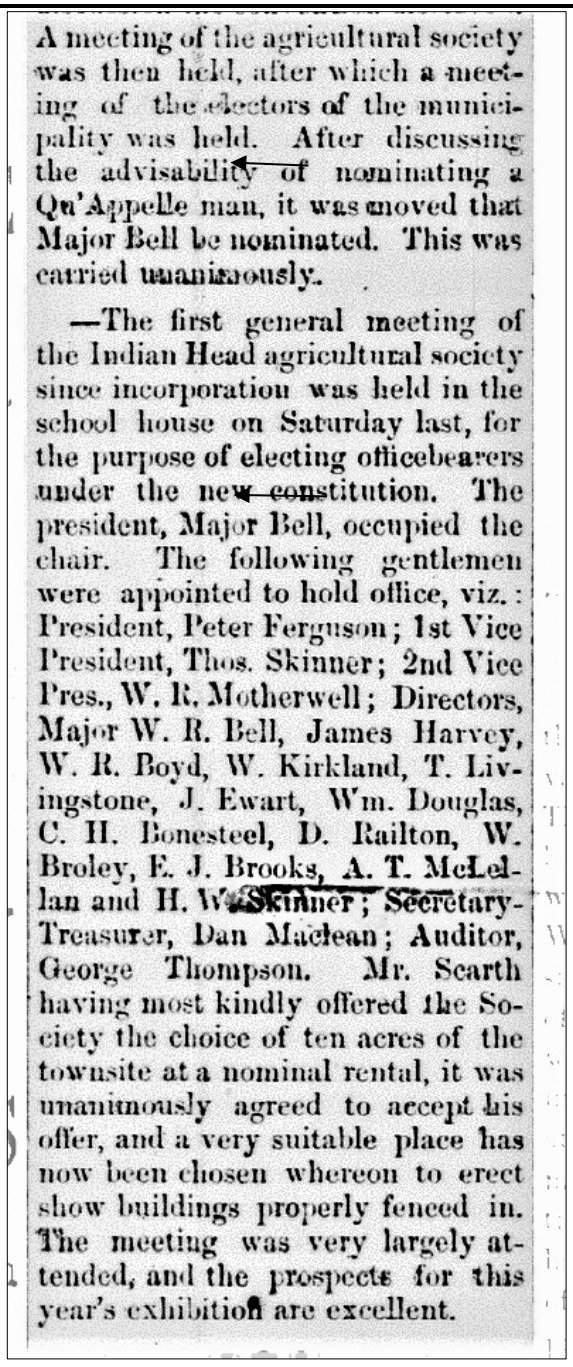
—The municipal council meets on Saturday next.

—Seven more carloads of wheat were shipped from here last week.

Messrs. Leslie Gordon, G. H. V. Bulyea, J. A. Cowan and James Weidman, of Qu'Appelle, were in town on Saturday last.

—Indian Head Masonic Lodge met on Monday evening last. The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: D. McIntosh, W. M., Colin McLean, S.W, Geo. Thompson, J.W., Dan. McLean, Sec., and R. Crawford, Treas.

—On Saturday last the delegates from the various wards of the municipality met here at eleven o'clock. After adjourning for dinner and meeting again at 13, there were only 14 delegates present. The first ballot was taken with the following result: R. Crawford 7, E. J. Brooks 5, P. Ferguson 1, Major Bell 1. The second ballot stood—Crawford 8, Brooks 6. A motion to make the nomination unanimous would not carry. After considerable discussion the convention dissolved.



A meeting of the agricultural society was then held, after which a meeting of the electors of the municipality was held. After discussing the advisability of nominating a Qu'Appelle man, it was moved that Major Bell be nominated. This was carried unanimously.

—The first general meeting of the Indian Head agricultural society since incorporation was held in the school house on Saturday last, for the purpose of electing officebearers under the new constitution. The president, Major Bell, occupied the chair. The following gentlemen were appointed to hold office, viz.: President, Peter Ferguson; 1st Vice President, Thos. Skinner; 2nd Vice Pres., W. R. Motherwell; Directors, Major W. R. Bell, James Harvey, W. R. Boyd, W. Kirkland, T. Livingstone, J. Ewart, Wm. Douglas, C. H. Bonesteel, D. Railton, W. Broley, E. J. Brooks, A. T. McLellan and H. W. Skinner; Secretary-Treasurer, Dan Maclean; Auditor, George Thompson. Mr. Scarth having most kindly offered the Society the choice of ten acres of the townsite at a nominal rental, it was unanimously agreed to accept his offer, and a very suitable place has now been chosen whereon to erect show buildings properly fenced in. The meeting was very largely attended, and the prospects for this year's exhibition are excellent.

327 kb 347 kb

1888 – June 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Bell vs Davidson in upcoming South Qu'Appelle election.

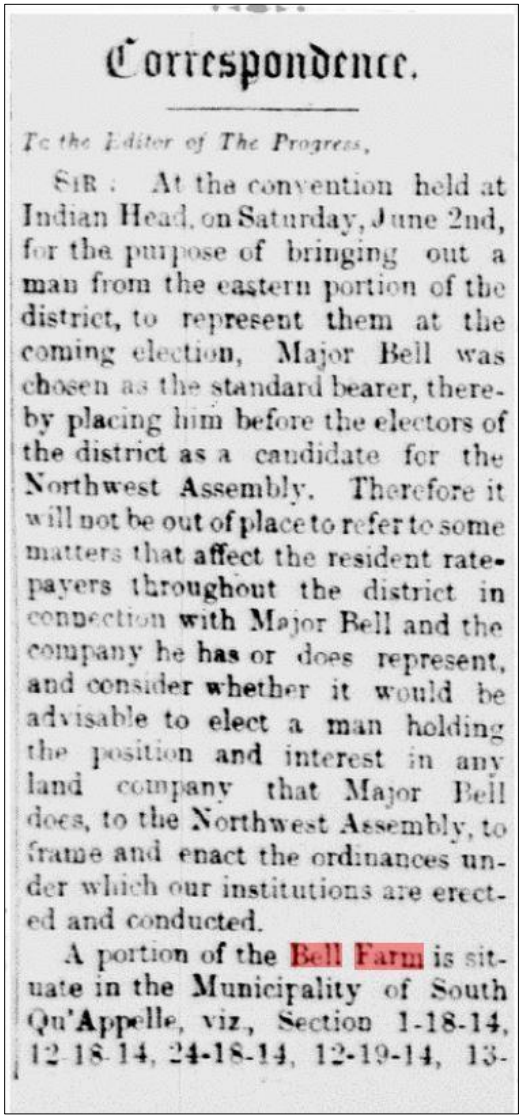
THIS OR THAT.

The present aspect of the election contest in South Qu'Appelle seems to indicate an inability on the part of the electorate as a body to arise above sectionalism. First a meeting was held in this municipality for the purpose of uniting on a candidate. A decision was arrived at, but the union apparently effected was not cordial. The disaffected looked to the east for further developments. Spurred on by the example of the west, the residents of Indian Head municipality hold several meetings and in convention are unable to agree. Failing to nominate a man from their own municipality, at a subsequent meeting the advisibility of nominating a western man was proposed, but was not received with very much favor, and Major Bell was then put into the field. Before this final decision was arrived at there was a hope that a sufficient number of the electors of both the east and west might be induced to rise above sectional feeling and select a man with a view of promoting the common welfare of the electoral district as a whole. The action of the eastern people has dispelled that hope, and we now find the east arrayed against the west. It is not a question of Prohibition or license or any other well defined principle of public polity, but which of the two municipalities is numerically the greater. This is really an undesirable state of affairs, but it is apparently unavoidable. The posters calling the meeting at Qu'Appelle were so worded as to include the whole electoral district, and there were a few present from the Indian Head municipality, but as a whole the east refused to act with those of the west. There is nothing, therefore, for the west to do but to concentrate their forces upon their candididate as they appear to be doing in the east. This municipality has the advantage in every way. It is numerically stronger and Mr. G. S. Davidson is a much more desirable candidate than Major Bell. Mr. Davidson is an energetic public spirited citizen, who, if elected, will undoubtedly exert himself for the benefit of the electoral district. Major Bell is an energetic citizen also, but the general opinion is that he would exert himself more for his own personal benefit than that of the district. It is the duty of the electors to choose between the two. Mr. Davidson's supporters should organize themselves, and be throughly prepared to poll every possible vote. It will not be wise to be over confident. Every vote counts.

1888 – 7 June – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4 – Bell and upcoming election

"**HOME & GOSSIP – Qu'Appelle -** The latest reports from Indian Head go to show that the eastern electors are uniting almost to a man on Major Bell. They care not apparently for the character of the man they vote for, but are determined that an Indian Head man shall be elected if possible. They are already working hard to rally their forces around their man, and promise visions of court house, county town, etc. Let Qu'Appelle people take a leaf out of their book."

1888 – June 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4 – Letter by Asa M. McLane to the Editor about Bell Farm taxes



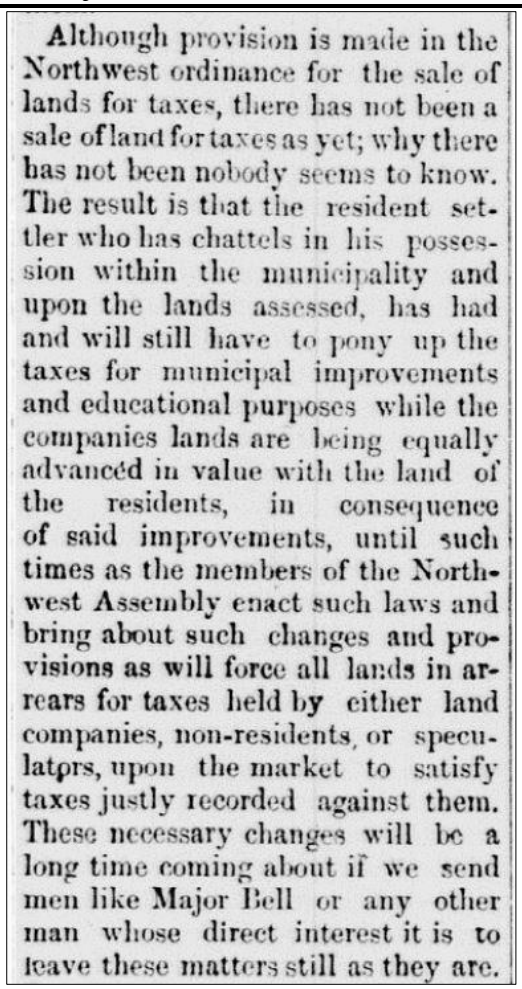
Correspondence.

To the Editor of The Progress,

SIR: At the convention held at Indian Head, on Saturday, June 2nd, for the purpose of bringing out a man from the eastern portion of the district, to represent them at the coming election, Major Bell was chosen as the standard bearer, thereby placing him before the electors of the district as a candidate for the Northwest Assembly. Therefore it will not be out of place to refer to some matters that affect the resident ratepayers throughout the district in connection with Major Bell and the company he has or does represent, and consider whether it would be advisable to elect a man holding the position and interest in any land company that Major Bell does, to the Northwest Assembly, to frame and enact the ordinances under which our institutions are erected and conducted.

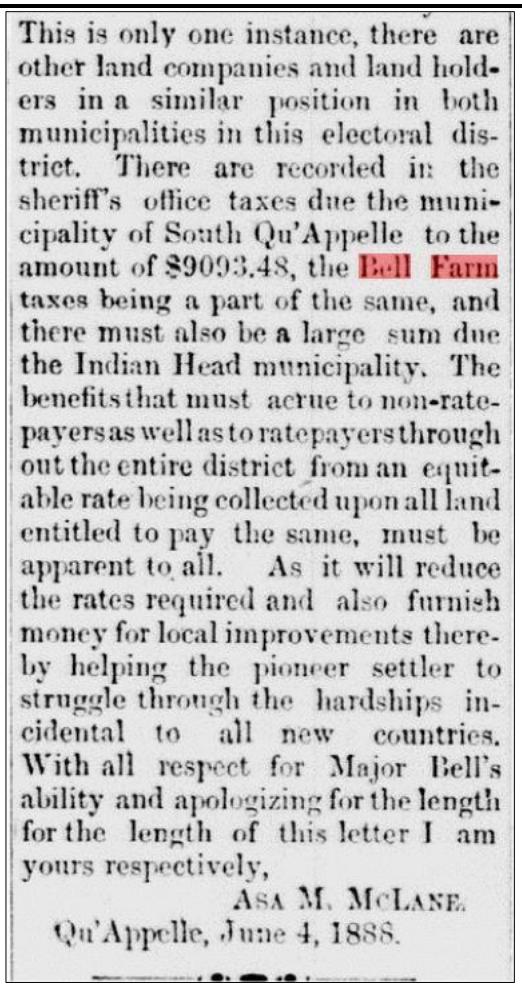
A portion of the Bell Farm is situate in the Municipality of South Qu'Appelle, viz., Section 1-18-14, 12-18-14, 24-18-14, 12-19-14, 13-19-14, and S. ½, 24-19-14. These the Bell Farming Company admit ownership of and appropiate them to their own use and benefit. The taxes recorded in the books of the municipality of South Qu'Appelle for the past four years against these lands amount to a total of $435.65 of which amount not one dollar has been paid. The Company not having any chattels upon the lands, are placed in the happy position of being able to defy the collection of these taxes by the usual method of seizure and sale. And while the municipal ordinances of the Territories provides that taxes are a debt due the municipality as well as a lien upon the land and may be collected through the courts in the ordinary way, still a difficulty arises in the shape of gigantic chattel mortgages on stock, crops and furniture, so that if recovery of these taxes were attempted through the courts the probability is that the municipality would have to contend with a company that really does not represent anything except these sections of land for which they do not pay the taxes charged against them.

78 kb 98 kb



Although provision is made in the Northwest ordinance for the sale of lands for taxes, there has not been a sale of land for taxes as yet; why there has not been nobody seems to know. The result is that the resident settler who has chattels in his possession within the municipality and upon the lands assessed, has had and will still have to pony up the taxes for municipal improvements and educational purposes while the companies lands are being equally advanced in value with the land of the residents, in consequence of said improvements, until such times as the members of the Northwest Assembly enact such laws and bring about such changes and provisions as will force all lands in arrears for taxes held by either land companies, non-residents, or speculatprs, upon the market to satisfy taxes justly recorded against them. These necessary changes will be a long time coming about if we send men like Major Bell or any other man whose direct interest it is to leave these matters still as they are.

89 kb



This is only one instance, there are other land companies and land holders in a similar position in both municipalities in this electoral district. There are recorded in the sheriff's office taxes due the municipality of South Qu'Appelle to the amount of $9093.48, the Bell Farm taxes being a part of the same, and there must also be a large sum due the Indian Head municipality. The benefits that must acrue to non-ratepayers as well as to ratepayers through out the entire district from an equitable rate being collected upon all land entitled to pay the same, must be apparent to all. As it will reduce the rates required and also furnish money for local improvements thereby helping the pioneer settler to struggle through the hardships incidental to all new countries. With all respect for Major Bell's ability and apologizing for the length for the length of this letter I am yours respectively,

ASA M. MCLANE.

Qu'Appelle, June 4, 1888.

83 kb

1888 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Sarcastic assessment of Major Bell and his ventures

SDAY, JUNE 21, 1888.

An Idyl in Prose.

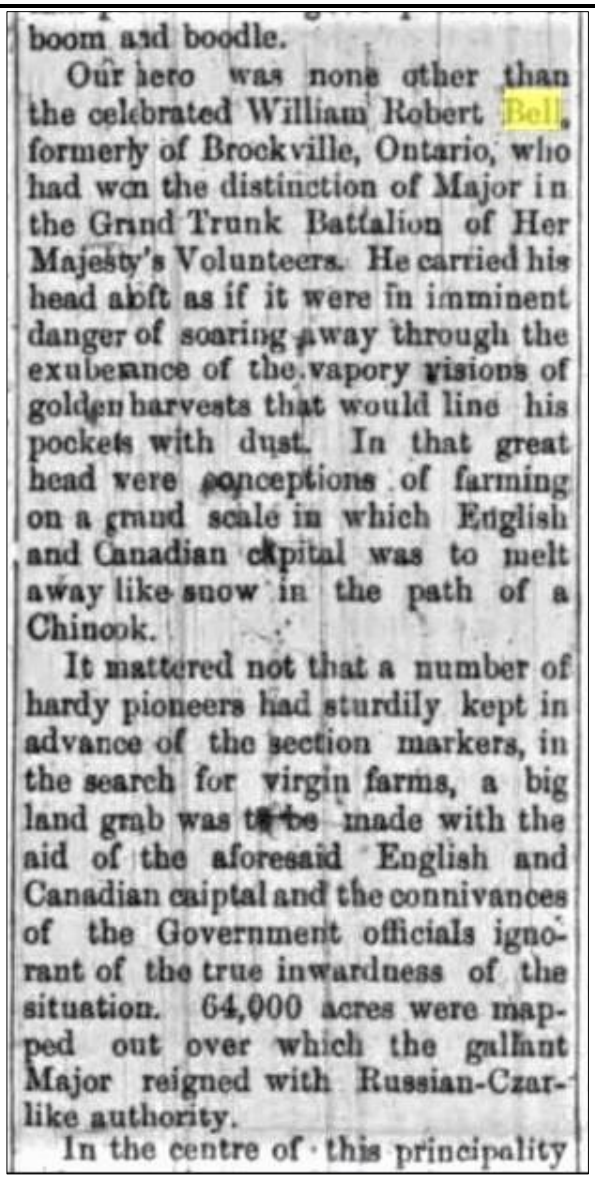
The Gallant Major Immortalized.

IMMATERIALIZED UTOPIAS.

BY Q. A. PEL.

Once upon a time, so the stories say, there came a wise man from the East to the wild West, and while roaming in unrestricted freedom over the boundless prairies of the Canadian Territories, he always having an eye to No. 1, kept right along where they were making a commercial highway for intercommunion between the east and west. This wise and gallant man with Dalymple visions of agriculture (at somebody else's expense) on a broad and extensive scale, alighted upon a certain plain which gave promise of

Part 1 117 kb



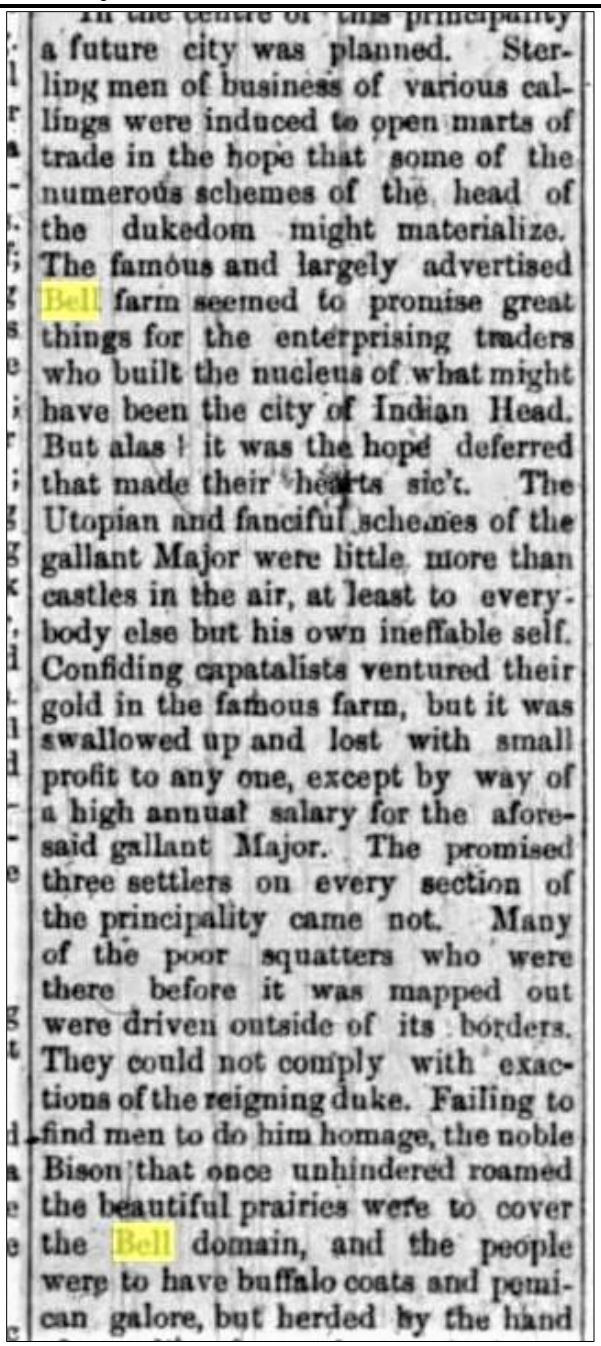
boom and boodle.

Our hero was none other than the celebrated William Robert Bell, formerly of Brockville, Ontario, who had won the distinction of Major in the Grand Trunk Battalion of Her Majesty's Volunteers. He carried his head aloft as if it were in imminent danger of soaring away through the exuberance of the vapory visions of golden harvests that would line his pockets with dust. In that great head were conceptions of farming on a grand scale in which English and Canadian capital was to melt away like snow in the path of a Chinook.

It mattered not that a number of hardy pioneers had sturdily kept in advance of the section markers, in the search for virgin farms, a big land grab was to be made with the aid of the aforesaid English and Canadian caiptal and the connivances of the Government officials ignorant of the true inwardness of the situation. 64,000 acres were mapped out over which the gallant Major reigned with Russian-Czar-like authority.

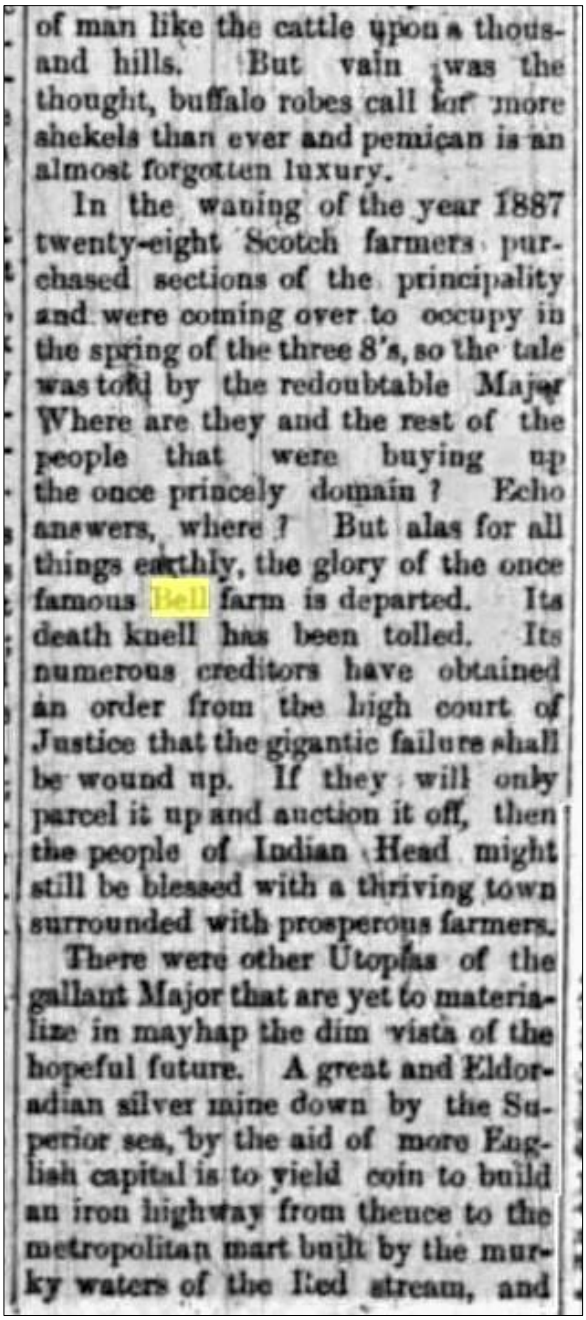
In the centre of this principality

Part 2 106 kb



In the centre of this principality a future city was planned. Sterling men of business of various callings were induced to open marts of trade in the hope that some of the numerous schemes of the head of the dukedom might materialize. The famous and largely advertised Bell farm seemed to promise great things for the enterprising traders who built the nucleus of what might have been the city of Indian Head. But alas! it was the hope deferred that made their hearts sic'k. The Utopian and fanciful schemes of the gallant Major were little more than castles in the air, at least to everybody else but his own ineffable self. Confiding capatalists ventured their gold in the famous farm, but it was swallowed up and lost with small profit to any one, except by way of a high annual salary for the aforesaid gallant Major. The promised three settlers on every section of the principality came not. Many of the poor squatters who were there before it was mapped out were driven outside of its borders. They could not comply with exactions of the reigning duke. Failing to find men to do him homage, the noble Bison that once unhindered roamed the beautiful prairies were to cover the Bell domain, and the people were to have buffalo coats and pemican galore, but herded by the hand

Part 3 130 kb

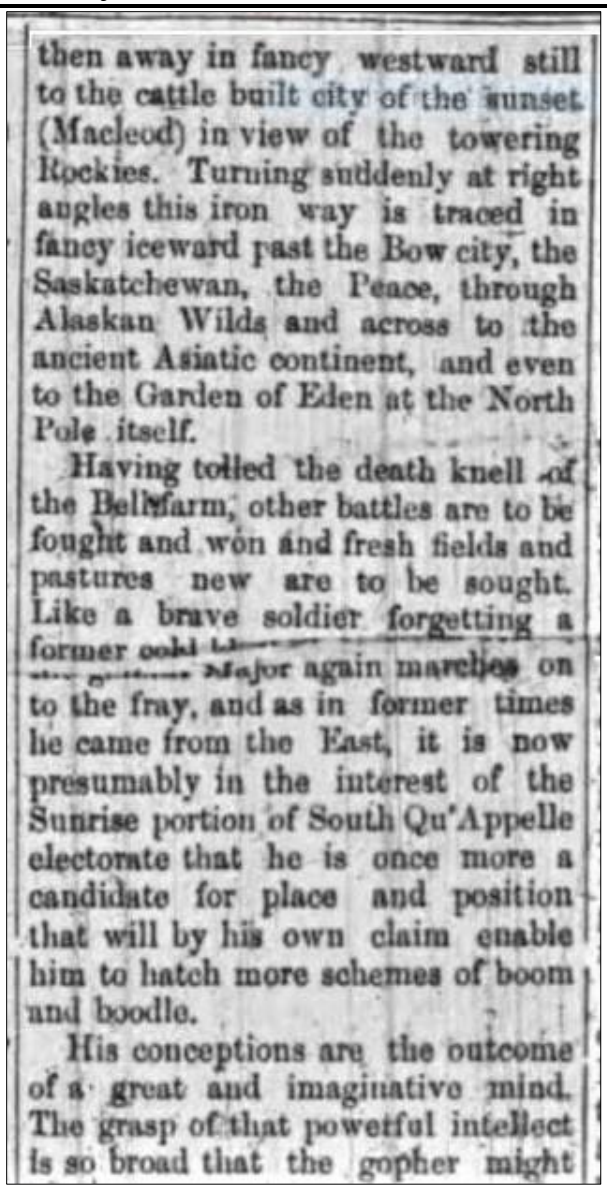


of man like the cattle upon a thousand hills. But vain was the thought, buffalo robes call for more shekels than ever and pemican is an almost forgotten luxury.

In the waning of the year 1887 twenty-eight Scotch farmers purchased sections of the principality and were coming over to occupy in the spring of the three 8's, so the tale was told by the redoubtable Major Where are they and the rest of the people that were buying up the once princely domain? Echo answers, where? But alas for all things earthly, the glory of the once famous Bell farm is departed. Its death knell has been tolled. Its numerous creditors have obtained an order from the high court of Justice that the gigantic failure shall be wound up. If they will only parcel it up and auction it off, then the people of Indian Head might still be blessed with a thriving town surrounded with prosperous farmers.

There were other Utopias of the gallant Major that are yet to materialize in mayhap the dim vista of the hopeful future. A great and Eldoradian silver mine down by the Superior sea, by the aid of more English capital is to yield coin to build an iron highway from thence to the metropolitan mart built by the murky waters of the Red stream, and

Part 4 119 kb

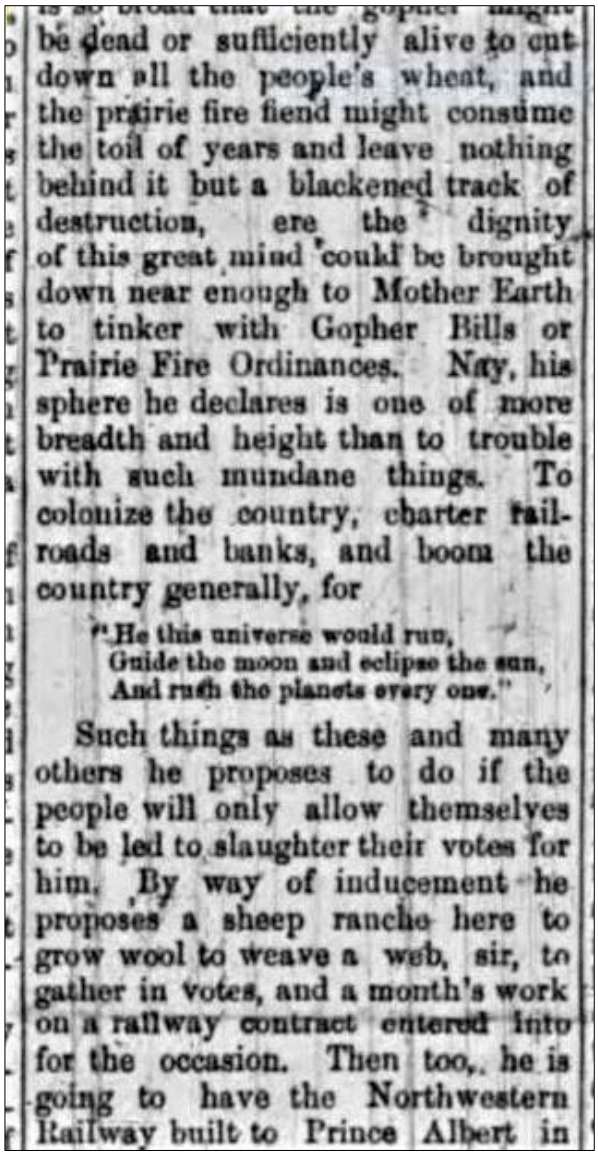


then away in fancy westward still to the cattle built city of the sunset (Macleod) in view of the towering Rockies. Turning suddenly at right angles this iron way is traced in fancy iceward past the Bow city, the Saskatchewan, the Peace, through Alaskan Wilds and across to the ancient Asiatic continent, and even to the Garden of Eden at the North Pole itself.

Having tolled the death knell of the Bell farm, other battles are to be fought and won and fresh fields and pastures new are to be sought. Like a brave soldier forgetting a former [illegible] Major again marches on to the fray, and as in former times he came from the East, it is now presumably in the interest of the Sunrise portion of South Qu'Appelle electorate that he is once more a candidate for place and position that will by his own claim enable him to hatch more schemes of boom and boodle.

His conceptions are the outcome of a great and imaginative mind. The grasp of that powerful intellect is so broad that the gopher might

Part 5 107 kb

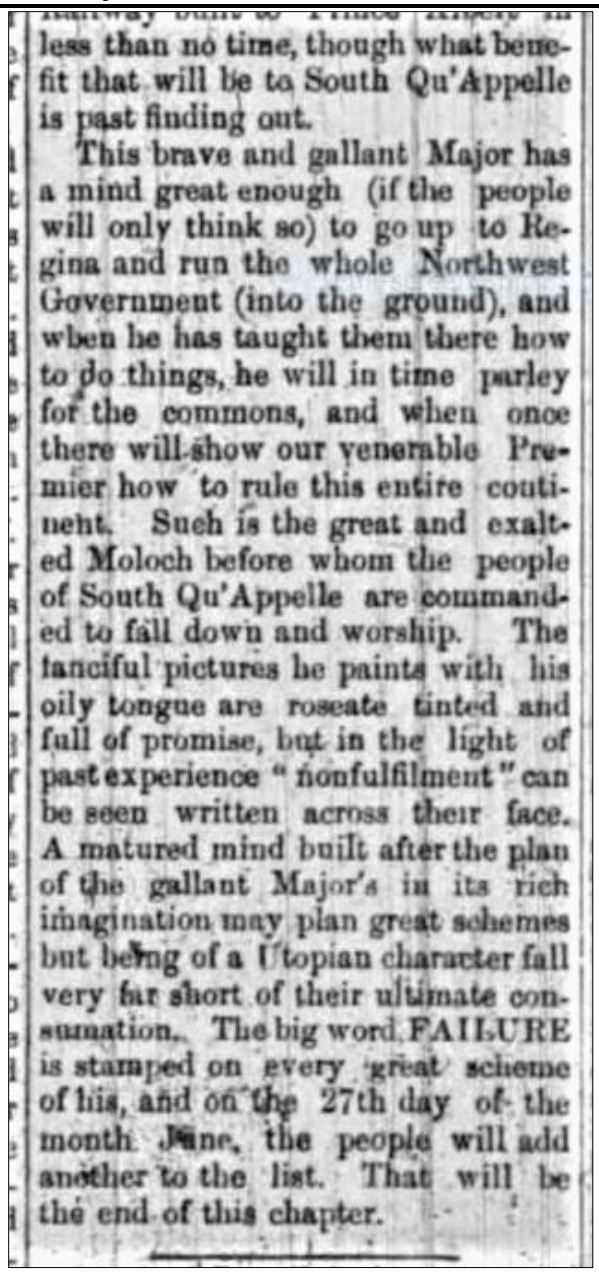


be dead or sufficiently alive to cut down all the people's wheat, and the prairie fire fiend might consume the toil of years and leave nothing behind it but a blackened track of destruction, ere the dignity of this great mind could be brought down near enough to Mother Earth to tinker with Gopher Bills or Prairie Fire Ordinances. Nay, his sphere he declares is one of more breadth and height than to trouble with such mundane things. To colonize the country, charter railroads and banks, and boom the country generally, for

"He this universe would run,
Guide the moon and eclipse the sun,
And rush the planets every one."

Such things as these and many others he proposes to do if the people will only allow themselves to be led to slaughter their votes for him. By way of inducement he proposes a sheep ranche here to grow wool to weave a web, sir, to gather in votes, and a month's work on a railway contract entered into for the occasion. Then too, he is going to have the Northwestern Railway built to Prince Albert in

Part 6 116 kb



less than no time, though what benefit that will be to South Qu'Appelle is past finding out.

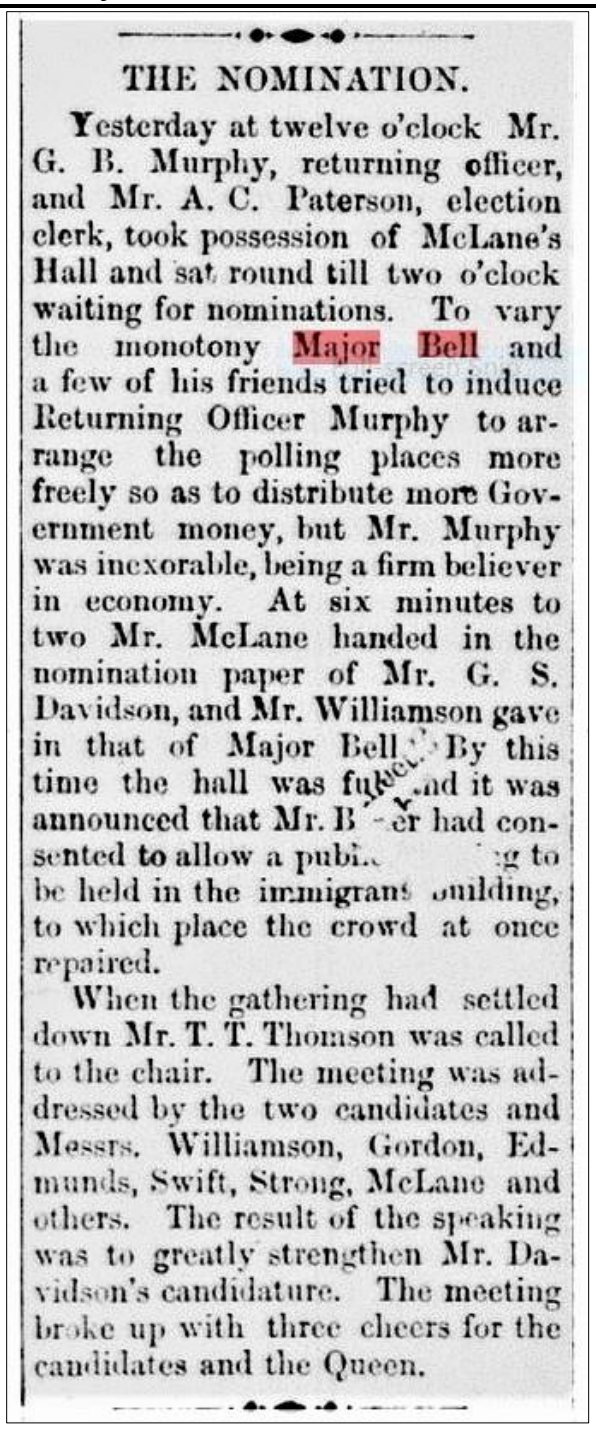
This brave and gallant Major has a mind great enough (if the people will only think so) to go up to Regina and run the whole Northwest Government (into the ground), and when he has taught them there how to do things, he will in time parley for the commons, and when once there will show our venerable Premier how to rule this entire coutinent. Such is the great and exalted Moloch before whom the people of South Qu'Appelle are commanded to fall down and worship. The fanciful pictures he paints with his oily tongue are roseate tinted and full of promise, but in the light of past experience "nonfulfilment" can be seen written across their face. A matured mind built after the plan of the gallant Major's in its rich imagination may plan great schemes but being of a Utopian character fall very far short of their ultimate consumation. The big word FAILURE is stamped on every great scheme of his, and on the 27th day of the month June, the people will add another to the list. That will be the end of this chapter.

Part 7 118 kb

1888 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Bell vs Davidson on Prohibition Law

"**NOTES AND COMMENTS -** The Prohibitionist has a choice between Major Bell and Mr. G.S. Davidson. While neither of them is a total abstainer, still Mr. Davidson favours retaining the present law until changed by a vote of the people, and Major Bell advocates a beer licence. Mr. Davidson's declarations on the platform are more in accordance with the views of the Prohibitionist than are those of Major Bell."

1888 – 21 June – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4 – Bell and Davidson Nomination for the upcoming election



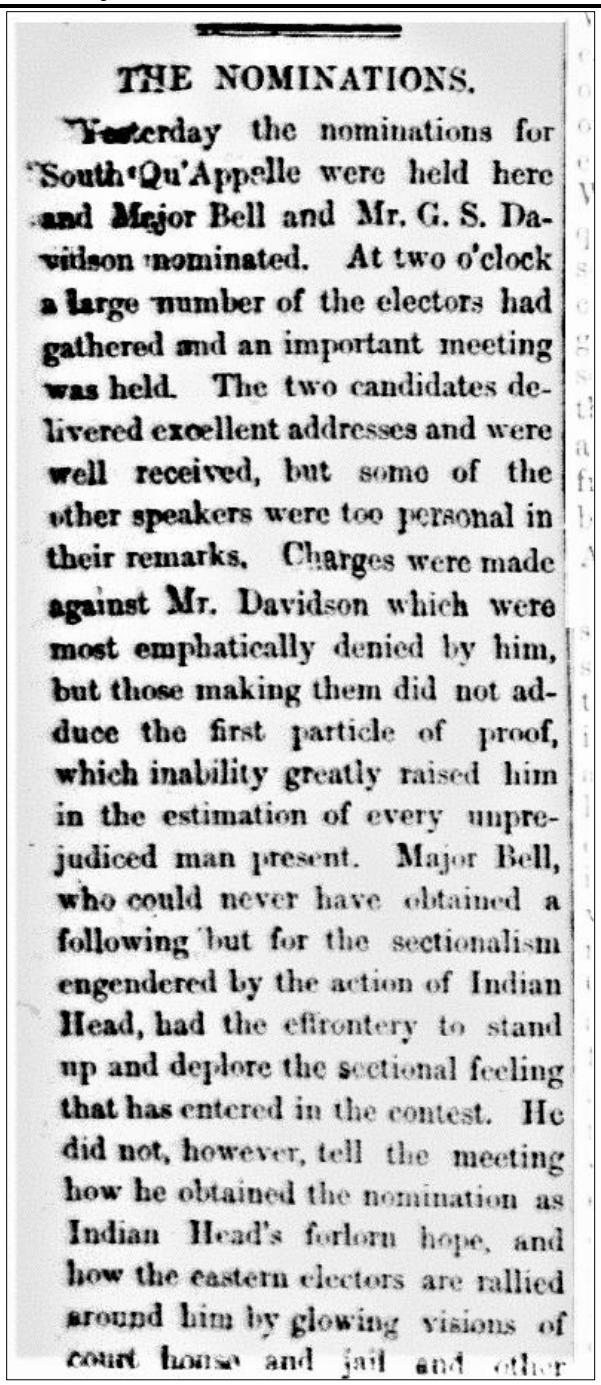
THE NOMINATION.

Yesterday at twelve o'clock Mr. G. B. Murphy, returning officer, and Mr. A. C. Paterson, election clerk, took possession of McLane's Hall and sat round till two o'clock waiting for nominations. To vary the monotony Major Bell and a few of his friends tried to induce Returning Officer Murphy to arrange the polling places more freely so as to distribute more Government money, but Mr. Murphy was inexorable, being a firm believer in economy. At six minutes to two Mr. McLane handed in the nomination paper of Mr. G. S. Davidson, and Mr. Williamson gave in that of Major Bell. By this time the hall was full, and it was announced that Mr. B[illegible]er had consented to allow a publ[illegible]g to be held in the immigrants building, to which place the crowd at once repaired.

When the gathering had settled down Mr. T. T. Thomson was called to the chair. The meeting was addressed by the two candidates and Messrs. Williamson, Gordon, Edmunds, Swift, Strong, McLane and others. The result of the speaking was to greatly strengthen Mr. Davidson's candidature. The meeting broke up with three cheers for the candidates and the Queen.

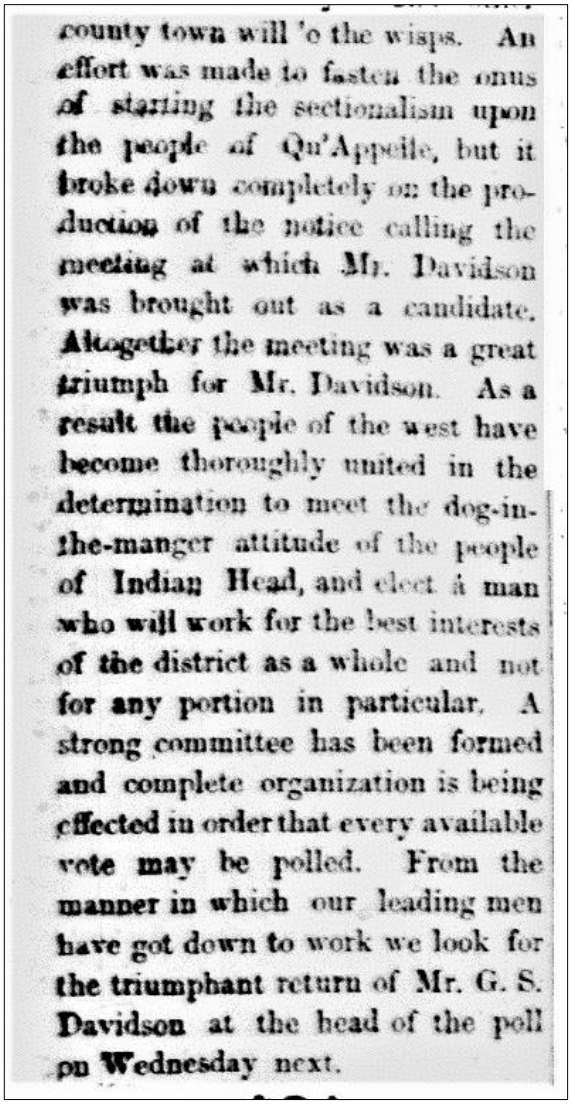
169 kb

1888 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Nomination Editorial – Bell vs Davidson



THE NOMINATIONS.

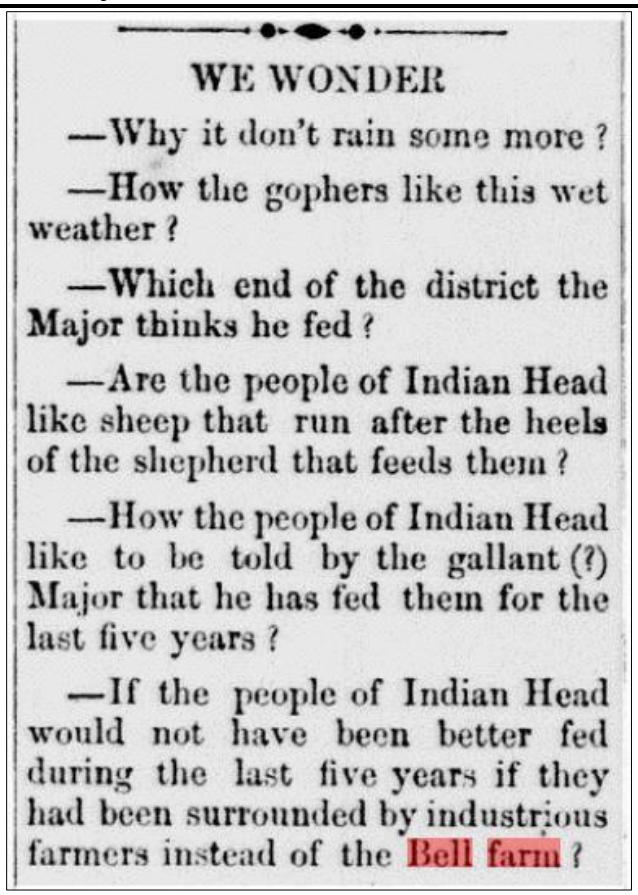
Yesterday the nominations for South Qu'Appelle were held here and Major Bell and Mr. G. S. Davidson nominated. At two o'clock a large number of the electors had gathered and an important meeting was held. The two candidates delivered excellent addresses and were well received, but some of the other speakers were too personal in their remarks. Charges were made against Mr. Davidson which were most emphatically denied by him, but those making them did not adduce the first particle of proof, which inability greatly raised him in the estimation of every unprejudiced man present. Major Bell, who could never have obtained a following but for the sectionalism engendered by the action of Indian Head, had the effrontery to stand up and deplore the sectional feeling that has entered in the contest. He did not, however, tell the meeting how he obtained the nomination as Indian Head's forlorn hope, and how the eastern electors are rallied around him by glowing visions of court house and jail and other



county town will 'o the wisps. An effort was made to fasten the onus of starting the sectionalism upon the people of Qu'Appelle, but it broke down completely on the production of the notice calling the meeting at which Mr. Davidson was brought out as a candidate. Altogether the meeting was a great triumph for Mr. Davidson. As a result the people of the west have become thoroughly united in the determination to meet the dog-in-the-manger attitude of the people of Indian Head, and elect a man who will work for the best interests of the district as a whole and not for any portion in particular. A strong committee has been formed and complete organization is being effected in order that every available vote may be polled. From the manner in which our leading men have got down to work we look for the triumphant return of Mr. G. S. Davidson at the head of the poll on Wednesday next.

357kb 315 kb

1888 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Editorial comment on value of the Bell Farm to the region



WE WONDER

—Why it don't rain some more ?

—How the gophers like this wet weather ?

—Which end of the district the Major thinks he fed ?

—Are the people of Indian Head like sheep that run after the heels of the shepherd that feeds them ?

—How the people of Indian Head like to be told by the gallant (?) Major that he has fed them for the last five years ?

—If the people of Indian Head would not have been better fed during the last five years if they had been surrounded by industrious farmers instead of the Bell farm ?

58 kb

1888 – June 28 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Indian Head: . . . . . Regular meeting of the municipal council held. Petition to submit a by-law for raising funds to build a public hall. "A committee consisting of Major Bell, E.J. Brooks, W. Kirkland and P. Ferguson, was appointed to see after the drafting of a by-law and other preliminaries."

1888 – July 12 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Indian Head" No matter where you look, "magnificent crops." Will exceed 10-fold last year's harvest – if not taken by frost. "Major Bell undoubtedly made a good stroke in cultivating 2,000 acres of land this year. He has one field of wheat, consisting of 640 acres, which looks like perfection. The crops all through look magnificent."

1888 – July 19 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Indian Head . . . Crop prospects could not be more formidable than today. Major Bell says his big 2,000 acre wheat fields are too good for anything."

1888 – July 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1

> "Crop prospects could not be more favorable than they now are. Major Bell says his big 2,000 acre wheat fields are 'too grand for anything.'"

1888 – July 19 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Advertisement by W. Johnston, Brandon - for Bell Farm machinery sale

121 kb

123 kb

1888 – July 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Court Case : sale of Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company

> LEGAL INTELLIGENCE. The Winding Up of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. – Application for Call. Before Mr. Justice Killam re Qu'Appelle Valley Farming company. An application was made to His Lordship yesterday on behalf of the official liquidator, for the summons calling upon the Bell Farm company to show cause why an order should not be made for a call. The Qu'Appelle Valley Farming company transferred all of their interest to the Bell Farm Co. , so that the latter company is the only contributory. The amount of the call asked for is $175,000, being $35 per share on 5,000 shares. The application will be heard on Tuesday next, 31st inst."

1888 – Aug. 7 – *Regina Leader* , p. 4 – Account of Tour (Exp. Farm details omitted) – James Harvey is another former Bell Farm employee

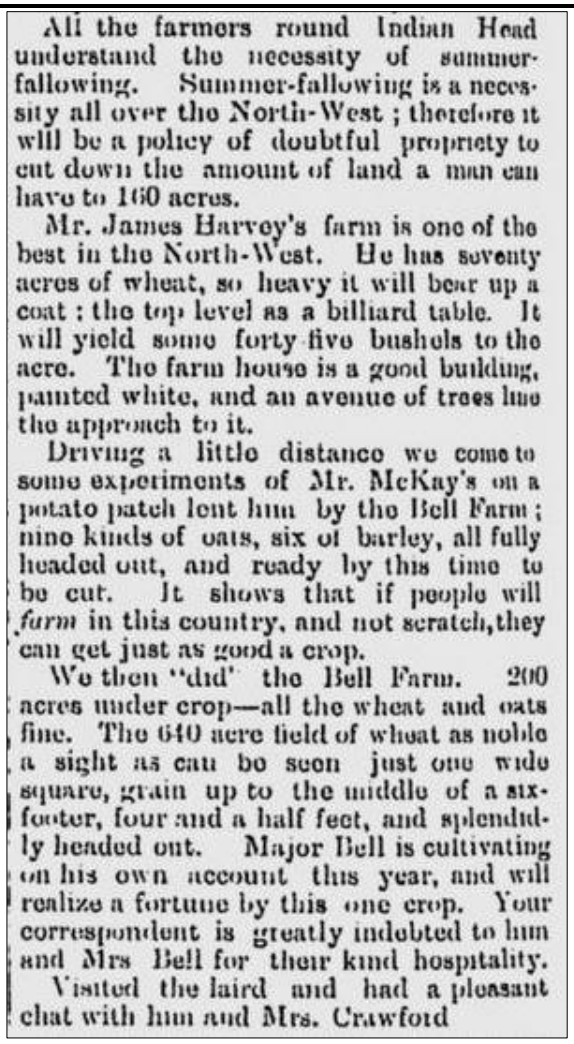
INDIAN HEAD.

Bell Farm--Experimental Farm.

[From an occasional Correspondent.]

I visited Indian Head last week and Major Bell, with his usual courtesy, drove me round the Bell and adjoining farms. The day was beautiful--a pleasant wind, blue sky flecked with white clouds. We first drove to the Experimental Farm, where we saw Mr. McKay, who has brought everything into excellent shape already; saw polar barley with 90 berries on each ear: maple trees from seed; choke cherries, strawberries, native flowers, apple trees--all coming on well. But to be more particular:

FOREST TREES, SHRUBS, ETC



All the farmers round Indian Head understand the necessity of summer-fallowing. Summer-fallowing is a necessity all over the North-West; therefore it will be a policy of doubtful propriety to cut down the amount of land a man can have to 160 acres.

Mr. James Harvey's farm is one of the best in the North-West. He has seventy acres of wheat, so heavy it will bear up a coat: the top level as a billiard table. It will yield some forty-five bushels to the acre. The farm house is a good building, painted white, and an avenue of trees line the approach to it.

Driving a little distance we come to some experiments of Mr. McKay's on a potato patch lent him by the Bell Farm; nine kinds of oats, six of barley, all fully headed out, and ready by this time to be cut. It shows that if people will *farm* in this country, and not scratch, they can get just as good a crop.

We then "did" the Bell Farm. 200 acres under crop—all the wheat and oats fine. The 640 acre field of wheat as noble a sight as can be seen just one wide square, grain up to the middle of a six-footer, four and a half feet, and splendidly headed out. Major Bell is cultivating on his own account this year, and will realize a fortune by this one crop. Your correspondent is greatly indebted to him and Mrs Bell for their kind hospitality.

Visited the laird and had a pleasant chat with him and Mrs. Crawford

32 kb 64 kb

1888 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader* , p. 2 – Crop report on the Bell Farm and region – excellent.

> " The Bell Farm. Two thousand acres are under crop and all in the best condition. It is a sight to look as far as eye can reach over a square mile of wheat waving to the breeze under the weight of full, rich heads, and just turning colour. Everything on the farm looks exceedingly fine, as in fact do all the crops visited."

1888 – Aug. 14 – *Regina Leader,* p. 4 – Bell Farm crop report – flourishing.

> "Major Bell called on us on Thursday. He reports the crops at Indian Head as flourishing."

1888 – Aug. 15 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major Bell in Winnipeg

> "PERSONAL: . . . At the Queen's are . . . . W.R. Bell, Indian Head . . . . "

1888 – Aug. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* – Major Bell & Eberts in Qu'Appelle

> "At the Leland (Hotel): . . . . Miss Eberts . . . . H.J. Eberts . . . . Major Bell, Indian Head . . . "

1888 – Aug. 16 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Major and Mrs. Bell at the Stony Mtn. Rifle Match

few minutes' walk over the brow of the hill and past the handsome residence of Warden Bedson brings the ranges into view. With every meeting of the association a perceptible growth in the village of Stony Mountain is noticeable; but the additions are nearly all the result of the increased attendance of boarders at Mr. Bedson's country hotel. Otherwise there is but little change in the place from other years. The same old faces loom up on the range with a slight sprinkling of new blood. A few of the best shots of former meetings were absent. Billy Cullin is in Victoria. D. Craig has joined the Winnipeg colony in Seattle. Griffith has also left the city. Sergeant Ridler's cheery voice is awaking the echoes in Des Moines. Barnhart has passed over to the great majority. These are about the only vacancies in the ranks of the old brigade. All the rest are there. M. C. Clarke, after rolling up a handsome score, is explaining just how it was that he did not make the possible; the jovial Captain Wastie is on deck from Brandon; Majors Bell and Bedson are banginglaway in the same old revolver extra series; Murray and McDiarmid, fast friends and rare good shots, are scoring bull's eyes and inners off the same target, and are anxious to put up big scores not so much for their own sakes as to keep up the reputation of the shooting. "F;" C. N. Mitchell, although not altogether recovered from his severe illness, is showing onlookers that his cunning has not yet forsaken him; and the numerous Lambs are struggling to see who will make the top scores of the day.

THE NURSERY MATCH.

THE LADIES' MATCH.

The high scores of the meeting are usually made in the ladies' match. The distance is only 200 yards and the contestant is allowed to take any position. Thus favored, and also no doubt inspired by the thought that they represent ladies, the marksmen knock out bulls'-eyes all along the line. The formal opening of the meeting took place immediately before the ladies' match. Miss Bedson, the daughter of the president of the association, fired the first shot, and scored the invariable bull's-eye. The marksmen then got down to work, and what with the crack of the rifles and the band of the Infantry School there was plenty of music in the air. The conditions were not very favorable for good shooting. The wind was variable shifting from quarter, puzzling even the veterans to make the proper allowances. The light was uncertain, clouds floating over the range and giving alternate periods of light and shade. Sometimes the targets showed up white in a clear burst of sunlight while the marksmen were in gloom; and again these conditions were reversed. After threatening rain, it finally cleared up and for an hour or so the weather for shooting was perfect. The scores in the ladies' match were:—

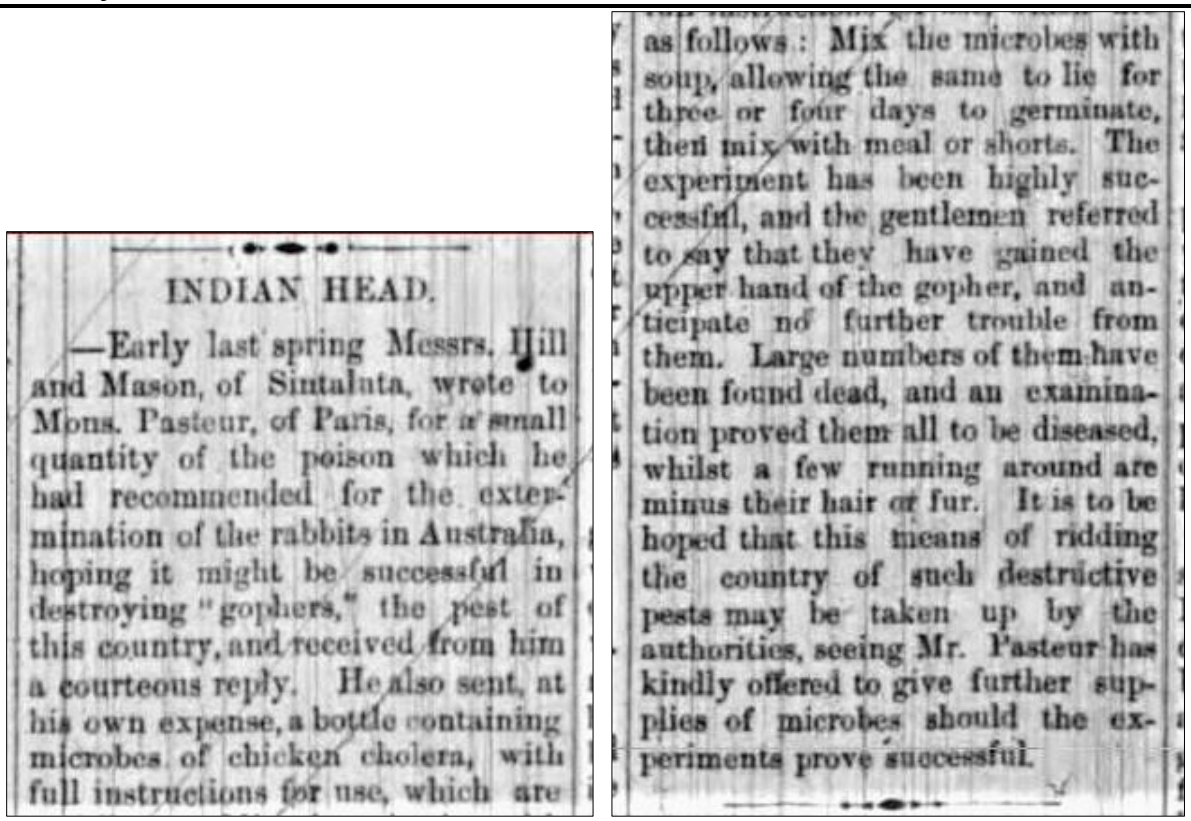
Mrs. John Lamb, Pte. Lamb, 90th	34
Miss Maud Warren, Pte. Jno. Warren, 90th	33
Mrs. P. R. Lamb, Mr. P. R. Lamb, 91st	33
Mrs. Huffman, Mr. C. W. Huffman	32
Miss S. Chamberlain, Pte. W. A. Lockhart 95th	32
Miss C. Wastie, Capt. Wastie, 95th	31
Mrs. Bell, Major Bell	31
Mrs. Balfour, Capt. Balfour, R. S. I.	31
Mrs. Major Steel, Capt. Bruce, 95th	31
Mrs. A. Gillies, Pte. A. Gillies, 90th	31
Mrs. Brown, Lt. R. C. Brown, 95th	30
Miss Scott, Sgt. J. D. Scott, 90th	30
Miss Ida Buchan, Major Buchan, M. I.	30
Mrs. Buchan; Dr. Sutherland	30
Mrs. Neilson, Pte. J. L. Neilson, 90th	30
Mrs. Eadie, Pte. S. Eadie, 90th	30
Mrs. Peter Lamb, Pte. Peter Lamb, 91st	30
Miss Smith, Pte. J. McDiarmid, 90th	30
Mrs. S. J. Smith, Corpl. S. J. Smith, 90th	30
Mrs. Maclin, Dr. Maclin	30
Mrs. Capt. W. Clarke, Sgt. A. Ross, 90th	30

Some of the men shot twice, representing different ladies each time, but the council of the association threw out the second score as contrary to the rules. In

Part 1 169 kb

Part 2 210 kb

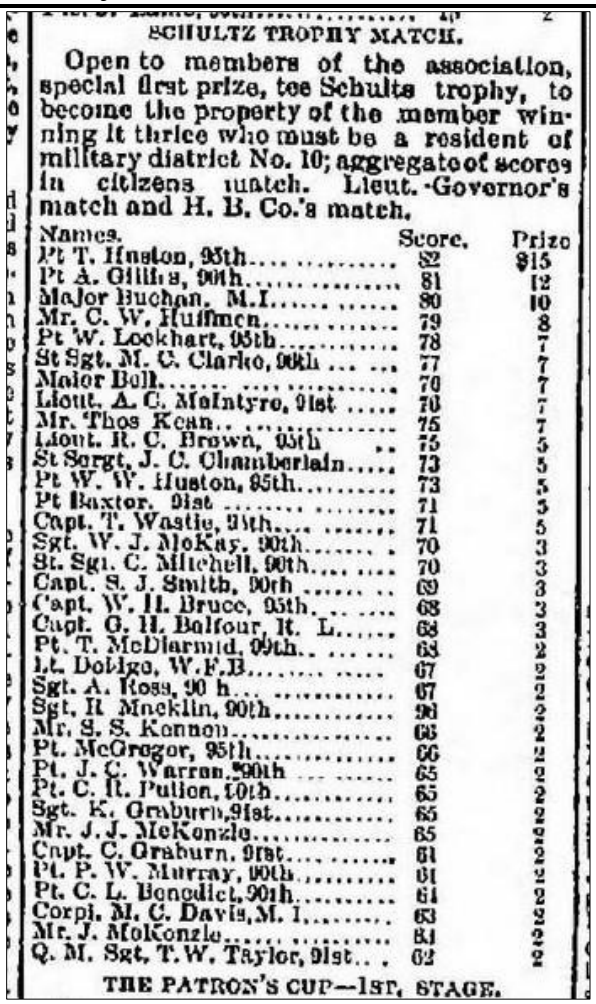
1888 – Aug. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Gopher Poison used at Indian Head and Sintaluta



INDIAN HEAD.

—Early last spring Messrs. Hill and Mason, of Sintaluta, wrote to Mons. Pasteur, of Paris, for a small quantity of the poison which he had recommended for the extermination of the rabbits in Australia, hoping it might be successful in destroying "gophers," the pest of this country, and received from him a courteous reply. He also sent, at his own expense, a bottle containing microbes of chicken cholera, with full instructions for use, which are as follows: Mix the microbes with soup, allowing the same to lie for three or four days to germinate, then mix with meal or shorts. The experiment has been highly successful, and the gentlemen referred to say that they have gained the upper hand of the gopher, and anticipate no further trouble from them. Large numbers of them have been found dead, and an examination proved them all to be diseased, whilst a few running around are minus their hair or fur. It is to be hoped that this means of ridding the country of such destructive pests may be taken up by the authorities, seeing Mr. Pasteur has kindly offered to give further supplies of microbes should the experiments prove successful.

1888 – Aug. 17 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 - Major Bell shoots for Schultz Trophy – comes in 7th and 13th in the Association Match.

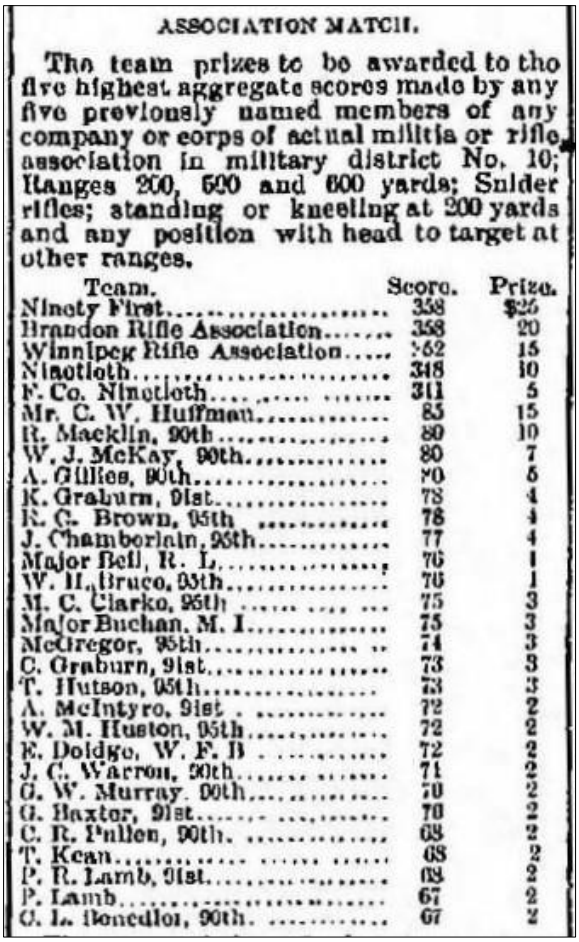


SCHULTZ TROPHY MATCH.

Open to members of the association, special first prize, the Schultz trophy, to become the property of the member winning it thrice who must be a resident of military district No. 10; aggregate of scores in citizens match. Lieut.-Governor's match and H. B. Co.'s match.

Names.	Score.	Prize
Pt T. Huston, 95th	82	$15
Pt A. Gillies, 90th	81	12
Major Buchan, M.I.	80	10
Mr. C. W. Huffmen	79	8
Pt W. Lockhart, 95th	78	7
St Sgt. M. C. Clarke, 90th	77	7
Major Bell	76	7
Lieut. A. C. McIntyre, 91st	76	7
Mr. Thos Kean	75	7
Lieut. R. C. Brown, 95th	75	5
St Sergt. J. C. Chamberlain	73	5
Pt W. W. Huston, 95th	73	5
Pt Baxter, 91st	71	5
Capt. T. Wastie, 91th	71	5
Sgt. W. J. McKay, 90th	70	3
St. Sgt. C. Mitchell, 90th	70	3
Capt. S. J. Smith, 90th	69	3
Capt. W. H. Bruce, 95th	68	3
Capt. G. H. Balfour, R. L.	68	3
Pt. T. McDiarmid, 99th	68	2
Lt. Doidge, W.F.B.	67	2
Sgt. A. Ross, 90 h	67	2
Sgt. R Macklin, 90th	66	2
Mr. S. S. Kennon	66	2
Pt. McGregor, 95th	66	2
Pt. J. C. Warren, 90th	65	2
Pt. C. R. Pulien, 10th	65	2
Sgt. K. Graburn, 91st	65	2
Mr. J. J. McKenzie	65	2
Capt. C. Graburn, 91st	61	2
Pt. P. W. Murray, 90th	61	2
Pt. C. L. Benedict, 90th	61	2
Corpl. M. C. Davis, M. I.	63	2
Mr. J. McKenzie	61	2
Q. M. Sgt. T. W. Taylor, 91st	62	2

THE PATRON'S CUP—1ST STAGE.



ASSOCIATION MATCH.

The team prizes to be awarded to the five highest aggregate scores made by any five previously named members of any company or corps of actual militia or rifle association in military district No. 10; Ranges 200, 500 and 600 yards; Snider rifles; standing or kneeling at 200 yards and any position with head to target at other ranges.

Team.	Score.	Prize.
Ninety First	358	$25
Brandon Rifle Association	358	20
Winnipeg Rifle Association	352	15
Ninetieth	348	10
F. Co. Ninetieth	311	5
Mr. C. W. Huffman	85	15
R. Macklin, 90th	80	10
W. J. McKay, 90th	80	7
A. Gillies, 90th	80	5
K. Graburn, 91st	78	4
R. C. Brown, 95th	78	4
J. Chamberlain, 95th	77	4
Major Bell, R. L.	76	1
W. H. Bruce, 95th	76	1
M. C. Clarke, 95th	75	3
Major Buchan, M. I.	75	3
McGregor, 95th	74	3
C. Graburn, 91st	73	3
T. Hutson, 95th	73	3
A. McIntyre, 91st	72	2
W. M. Huston, 95th	72	2
E. Doidge, W. F. B	72	2
J. C. Warren, 90th	71	2
G. W. Murray, 90th	70	2
G. Baxter, 91st	70	2
C. R. Pullen, 90th	68	2
T. Kean	68	2
P. R. Lamb, 91st	68	2
P. Lamb	67	2
C. L. Benedict, 90th	67	2

Part 1 149 kb

Part 2 123 kb

1888 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
269	August 21, 1888	M. Bowell	Ottawa, Ontario	Probably Mackenzie Bowell, later Prime Minister of Canada (1894-96)
270	"	James Johnson	"	
271	"	Richard Dobell	Quebec	Probably: Richard Reid Dobell
272	"	W.M. Dobell	"	William Molson Dobell
273	"	C.M. Dobell	"	Charles McPherson Dobell

1888 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments

274	Sept. 4, 1888	Wm. Sherwood	Brockville, Ont.	
275	"	Sarah J. Sherwood	"	

1888 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1293	J 15	SCNWT 22/88	Crawford & Robertson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888, 1890, 1901	
1295	J 15	SCNWT 24/88	The Commercial Bank of Manitoba Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	Get info on this bank – never heard of it
1300	K 15	SCNWT 29/88	Crawford & Robinson Vs. Qu'Appelle Valley Faming Company	1886-1888	
1301	K 15	SCNWT 30/88	A.J. Osment Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1302	K 15	SCNWT 31/88	S.W. Caswell Vs. Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company	1888	
1303	L 15	SCNWT 32/88	Van Allan Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1308	L 15	SCNWT 37/88	J.D. Sibbald & Company Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	Flour & feed sales, implement dealers in Regina
1327	P 15	SCNWT 56/88	Van Allan & Ajur Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1335	B 16	SCNWT 65/88	R.W. Sherwood Vs.	1888-1901	

			Bell Farming Company Limited		
1336	B 16	SCNWT 66/88	W.J. Harrop Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889	
1337	B 16	SCNWT 67/88	J.W. Moody Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1338	B 16	SCNWT 68/88	T. Galbraith Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889, 1901	
1339	C 16	SCNWT 69/88	W. Dixon Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1340	C 16	SCNWT 70/88	G. Smith Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1341	C 16	SCNWT 71/88	J.B. Swift Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889; 1901	
1342	C 16	SCNWT 72/88	J. Thompson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1343	C 16	SCNWT 73/88	W.E. Hall Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1344	C 16	SCNWT 74/88	C. Hall Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1345	D 16	SCNWT 75/88	W. Ingram Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1346	D 16	SCNWT 76/88	S. Ingram Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1347	D 16	SCNWT 77/88	E. Ingram Vs.	1888	

			Bell Farming Company Limited		
1348	D 16	SCNWT 78/88	E.R. Hawkins Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1349	D 16	SCNWT 79/88	J. Hodkinson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1350	D 16	SCNWT 80/88	J. Sanderson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1351	E 16	SCNWT 81/88	S. Will Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1352	E 16	SCNWT 82/88	T. Cutt Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1353	E 16	SCNWT 83/88	R. Thompson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1354	E 16	SCNWT 84/88	J. Maguire Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1355	E 16	SCNWT 85/88	J. Ligget Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1356	E 16	SCNWT 86/88	W. Harrop Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1361	F 16	SCNWT 92/88	W.R. Bell Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889, 1902	Bell suing Bell Farm
1372	H 16	SCNWT 103/88	R. Wilson Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1373	H 16	SCNWT 104/88	W. Jeans Vs.	1888	

			Bell Farming Company Limited		
1375	I 16	SCNWT 106/88	M. Seddon Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	
1396	L 16	SCNWT 127/88	A. Harris Son & Company Vs. Bell Farming Co. Limited & W.R. Bell	1887-1888	Probably the equipment dealership
1406	N 16	SCNWT 137/88	W.R. Bell Vs. Norris & Carruthers	1888-1889	
1407	N 16	SCNWT 138/88	M. Dale Vs. B. Tanner & H. Tanner	1888	Benjamin Tanner and probably Henry Tanner of Bell and Brassey Farm fame
1429	C 17	SCNWT 160/88	J.W. Moody Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, F.H. Bridges, W.R. Allan, W.L. Boyle, R.T. Rokely, F.W. Stobart	1888-1889	
1467	I 17	SCNWT 559/88	Commercial Bank of Manitoba Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888-1889, 1895	
1468	I 17	SCNWT 560/88	A.J. Osment Vs. Bell Farming Company Limited	1888	

1888 – Sept. 4 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 - Harvest Underway : [Indian Head farming information – Sioux camped on Bell Farm to help with the harvest – (see post card following article.)]

"INDIAN HEAD: Hay Crop. Professor Saunders. (from our own correspondent)

Mr. J.A. Kammerer is in town today. Work on the buildings on the Experimental Farm have begun. Major Bell, who has the contract for supplying the stone for the foundations, has already delivered a large quantity. Most of the grain grown by Mr. McKay on the farm has been cut, the Russian wheat ripening much earlier than other kinds.

Professor Saunders. During his recent visit, expressed himself as highly pleased with the harvest prospects and the future of the country in general. And well pleased with the appearance of the many kinds of _____ planted on the Experimental Farm and expressed his pleasure at the amount of work done and the results attained.

During their stay Mr. McKay drove Professor and Mrs. Saunders out to the Indian Reserve and also to the "Mission". The splendid appearance of the grain and vegetables on the reserve gave great pleasure to the visitors, the quality of both equalling that of their white neighbours. The work done on the reserve by the Indians deserves special praise and reflects great credit to Agent. W.S. Grant, for the care and attention he had given those placed under his charge.

Major Bell has commenced harvest operations and has a large band of Sioux Indians encamped on his farm, to assist him in harvest work.

The splendid weather of the past week has brought the wheat on, so that cutting will be in full swing tomorrow. Most of the barley is already in stack.

The hay crop this year has been fairly good on the whole, also the yield of potatoes promises to be very large, so that the farmers have some cause of thankfulness, so that all around there is no part of their harvest but what promises to be a success."

142 kb

Postcard of a Sioux Encampment near Indian Head (no date – possibly 1892-1917)

1888 – Sept. 11 – *Regina Leader*- p. 1 – Crop Report - Harvest Not Completed

"**INDIAN HEAD.** Major Bell has 900 acres cut; he is in great humour, the crops cutting up much heavier than was expected.

Harvesting is progressing very fast, the great bulk already being cut."

1888 – Sept. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*. 1 – Major Bell's wheat crop

"**INDIAN HEAD:** - Major Bell is about through cutting his wheat. It will be a heavy yield."

1888 – Sept 24 - Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, report on workers from Standing Buffalo Reserve at Bell and Lister Kaye Farms

"SIR, - I have the honor to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1889.

MUSCOWPETUNG AGENCY. The next point, reached was Muscowpetung Agency, Mr. J.B. Lash agent, and Mr. Halpin clerk; arriving there on the 24th September. . . The first reserve inspected by me was "Standing Buffalo's," Sioux, No. 78; area, 7.5 square miles; population, 200. The houses were clean and tidy; most of the Indians were absent, working on the Bell Farm and for Sir John Lister Kaye."

1888 – Sept. 25 – *Regina Leader*, p. 5 – 2,000 Acres of grain cut

"Major Bell has finished cutting grain, the number of acres being 2,000."

1888 – Oct. 2 – *Regina Leader* – report on harvest conditions at Indian Head; and Major Bell's flour mill

"**INDIAN HEAD** – Good Prospects – The prospects for our farmers are getting even better than they were, for not only have they splendid crops, but they will be in a good position to dispose of them to the best advantage as there will be a good market here. There will at least be three grain buyers here this season: The Keewatin Milling Co., - The Manitoba Milling and Brewing Co., and an Ontario firm. The question "will the mill be running?" still is asked. Should it be, the trade of the town will be greatly benefited, as well as the farmers."

1888 – Oct. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

"Indian Head Show. The Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural Society's show was held at Indian Head on Friday, the 5th inst. The exhibits of cereals, dairy products, vegetables and ladies work were shown in the brick Bell Farm building, and the livestock on the prairie to the west of town." Compliments Angus McKay on the exhibit from the Experimental Farm. Also compliments "the Indians" for their fine show of vegetables and cereals.

1888 – Oct. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1 - Bell harvest report – 60,000 bushels expected

"INDIAN HEAD - It will take Major Bell some six weeks to finish threshing his immense crop which has been sold to the Ogilvie Milling Company at $1 per bushel, so report says. The major thinks he will have over 60,000 bushels of A1 wheat, some of it threshing out forty bushels to the acre and other farmers reporting the same yield."

1888 – Oct. 23 – *Regina Leader ,* p. __ – Bell Farm crop report; new elevator being built.

"**INDIAN HEAD.** WHEAT. Major Bell shipped four cars of wheat on Saturday."

And

"The new elevator is nearing completion and will be a great boon to our farmers." [Question: Bell or some other owner?]

1888 – Oct. 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 1 – Major Bell sells wheat to Ogilvie & Company at Port Arthur

"**Wheat at Indian Head** – Indian Head, N.W.T., Oct. 20 – The report of the arrival of the first shipment of wheat from this point to Port Arthur has just been received and gives the grade as No. 1 extra. This is very satisfactory as there is at least 150,000 bushels of equally as good wheat as that already shipped. Four car loads left to-day for Ogilvie & Co., the first of Major Bell's wheat crop, which has all been sold to that company, and will range between 40,000 and 50,000 bus. No. 1 hard. Mr. Donnelly, of this place, threshed out 600 [quantity unclear ?] bushels of splendid wheat, which averages 50 bushels to the acre. Up to the present we have not heard of any such heavy yield. McMillan's elevator is now nearly finished and should be ready to receive grain in another week."

1888 – Oct. 31 – Annual Report 1887-88, Office of the Indian Commissioner – hiring Indian farm workers

Annual Report 1887-88, Office of the Indian Commissioner, Regina

"The general advancement in the methods of civilization has rendered possible the inauguration of a new policy which is being pursued. I refer to that of substituting Indian labor, to some extent, for that of whites, in connection with the agencies and reserves. This policy will be susceptible of gradual development. Indians, too, have been encouraged, when it could be done without detriment to the work of their own reserves, to hire themselves out to the farmers, and much of the harvesting for example, on the Bell Farm - has been done by workers thus obtained as many as sixty Indians having been at work at one time."

1888 – Nov. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"INDIAN HEAD – Oct. 18 . . . . Major Bell is now putting wheat in his elevator at the rate of 2,000 bushels per day. Expects to ship a train-load early next week."

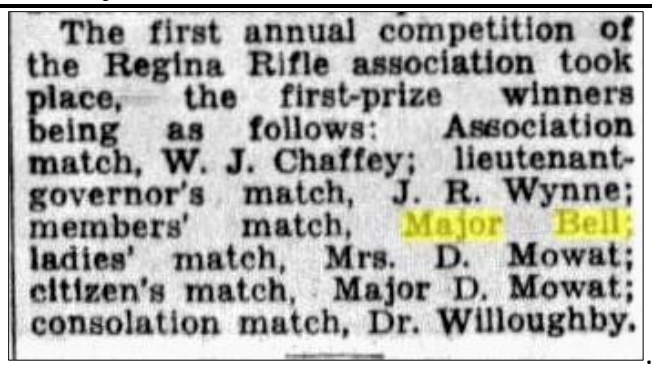
1888 – Nov. 16 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 2 – Major Bell wins prizes at Regina Rifle Match.

"**Rifle Matches at Regina**. REGINA, N.W.T., Nov. 15 – Rifle matches were commenced to-day, but were not concluded. The wind was strong and weather very cold, and the scores made not large. Wynn, of the Canadian Wimbleton [sic – should be Wimbledon] team, won the Lieutenant Governor's Cup. A large number participated, including gentlemen from Montreal, Moosomin, Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Fort Qu'Appelle and Calgary. Major Bell took some prizes. The matches conclude tomorrow, when a full list of prize winners will be made out."

1888 – Nov. 23 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1

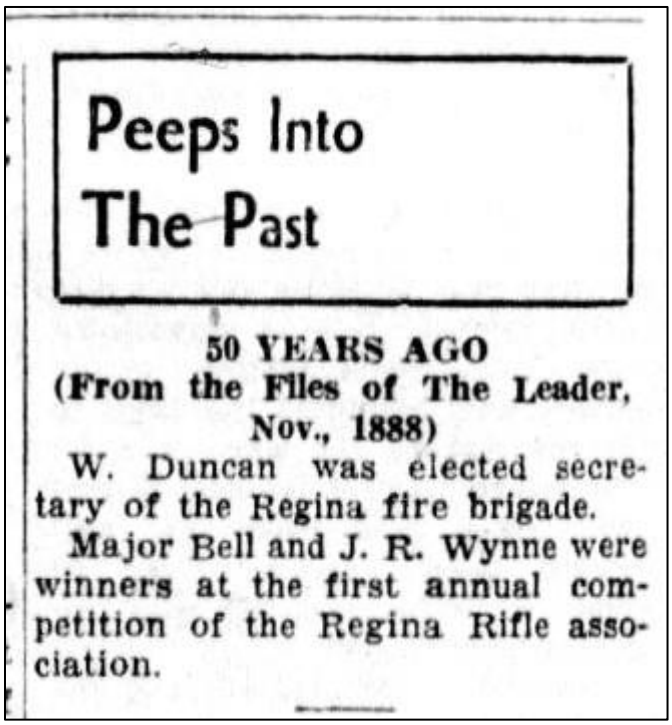
"INDIAN HEAD . . . . Threshing will be completed on the Bell Farm in two weeks. Well done Major."

1888 – Nov. ___ - *Regina Leader,* _____ - Major Bell participated in first Assiniboia (Regina) Rifle Association Match – as reported in Nov. 30, 1933 edition, p. 4 - – check for details – cannot find original 1888 reference –



The first annual competition of the Regina Rifle association took place, the first-prize winners being as follows: Association match, W. J. Chaffey; lieutenant-governor's match, J. R. Wynne; members' match, Major Bell; ladies' match, Mrs. D. Mowat; citizen's match, Major D. Mowat; consolation match, Dr. Willoughby.

see also: Nov. 15, 1938, p. 4



Peeps Into The Past

50 YEARS AGO
(From the Files of The Leader, Nov., 1888)

W. Duncan was elected secretary of the Regina fire brigade.

Major Bell and J. R. Wynne were winners at the first annual competition of the Regina Rifle association.

1888 – Nov 30

"Major Bell and wife are in the city on their way to England" Nov 30 1908- "Twenty Years Ago" Winnipeg Tribune - cannot find article – check for details

1888 – Dec 4 – *Regina Leader* - Major and Mrs. Bell travel to Winnipeg and England.

"**INDIAN HEAD:** Major and Mrs. Bell left on Thursday, for Winnipeg and after a short stay there they will proceed to England."

1888 – Dec. 5 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 1 – Major Bell sails to England to secure funding for the Bell Farm

"OTTAWA – Dec. 5 – Major W.R. Bell, of Indian Head, is about to sail for England for the purpose of organizing a stock company to run the Bell farm. The Major had a very successful season last year."

1888 – Dec. 5 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 37 – Major Bell has 5,000 bushel elevator at Indian Head

> "**INDIAN HEAD.** Mr. H.D. McMillan has just completed a grain elevator capable of holding 25,000 bushels, this with a 5,000 elevator owned by Mr. W.R. Bell will enable the farmers to ship their wheat without delay."

1888 – Dec. 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 - Bell elevator; threshing, trip to England; Presbyterian Church

> "INDIAN HEAD. From our own correspondent.
>
> - The Bell Farm elevator is stopped running for a few days owing to the boiler undergoing repairs.
> - Threshing is completed on the Bell Farm. Major and Mrs. Bell are gone on a visit to the Old Country for the winter."

1888 – Dec. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p.1 – Party for Councillor Kirkland

> "On the evening of the 28th a very enjoyable send off was given to Councillor Kirkland who started for England on the 29th. Supper was provided in first class style by Mr. W.R. Boyd. The chair was filled by Major Bell and the vice chair by Mr. McKay. The usual loyal toasts were duly honoured in addition to that of the guest of the evening which was received with much enthusiasm."

1888 - Dec. 19 - *Colonies and India* , p. 14 and 15 – Major Bell en route to England

> "Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is on the way to England. It is said that he proposes to organize a stock company to take over the farm. Two thousand acres only were under cultivation this year out of a total of about 12,000. The crop was abundant, and rumour has it that the profits this year, owing to the high price of grain, were considerable but this requires verification."

1888 – Dec. 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – report on Elevator boiler repairs

> "**INDIAN HEAD -** The repair on the boiler of the Bell Farm elevator is completed and will be running to-morrow."

1889

1889 – Jan. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

> "Indian Head . . . The nominations at Indian Head resulted in the election by acclamation of the following gentlemen as councillors for the current year: . . . " included A.J. Osment.

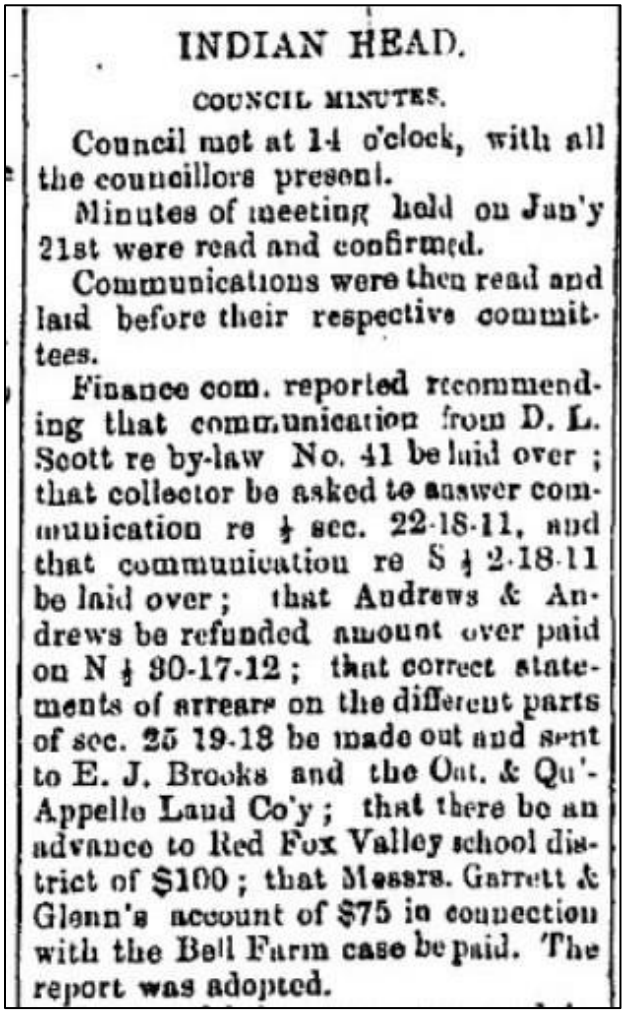
1889 – Jan. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

[wrong date on newspaper, stroked out and corrected in pencil]: "Indian Head" Nomination for municipal councillors by acclamation include new member A.J. Osment

1889 – Feb. 19 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Operations of Bell Farm Company closed by Justice A.C. Killam of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench.

"**MANITOBA MATTERS. Winding Up the Bell Farm** - Winnipeg, Feb. 16. Mr. Justice Killam has granted an order for the winding up of the Bell Farm company on the application of the Scottish Investment Co., who are holders of 150 shares in the company of $1,000 each."

1889 – March 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1 – Garrett & Glenn business with Major Bell and Town Council



INDIAN HEAD.

COUNCIL MINUTES.

Council met at 14 o'clock, with all the councillors present.

Minutes of meeting held on Jan'y 21st were read and confirmed.

Communications were then read and laid before their respective committees.

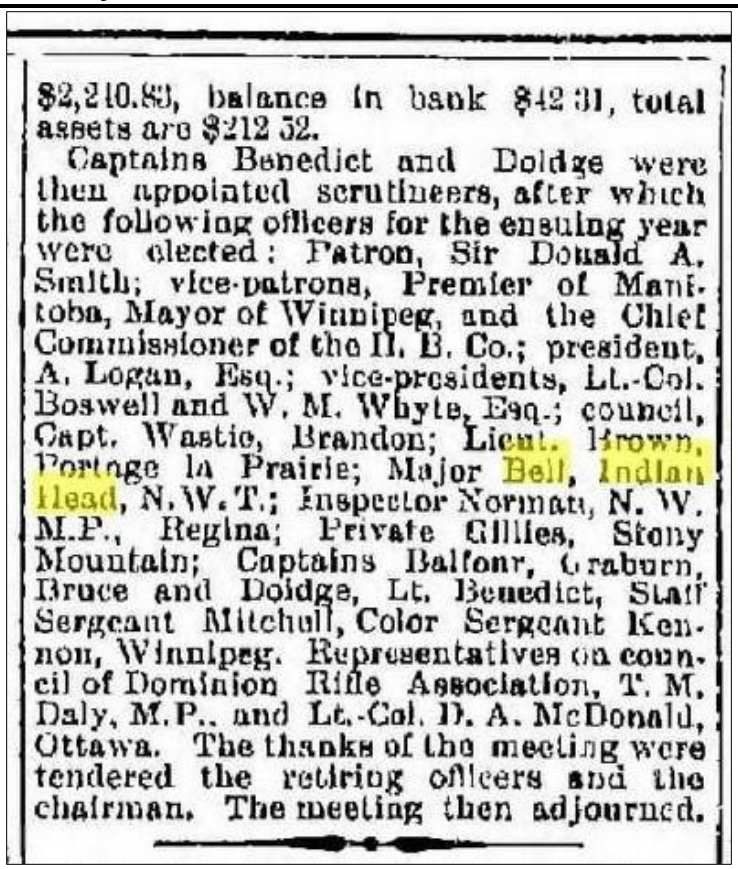
Finance com. reported recommending that communication from D. L. Scott re by-law No. 41 be laid over; that collector be asked to answer communication re ½ sec. 22-18-11, and that communication re S ½ 2-18-11 be laid over; that Andrews & Andrews be refunded amount over paid on N ½ 30-17-12; that correct statements of arrears on the different parts of sec. 25 19-18 be made out and sent to E. J. Brooks and the Ont. & Qu'-Appelle Land Co'y; that there be an advance to Red Fox Valley school district of $100; that Messrs. Garrett & Glenn's account of $75 in connection with the Bell Farm case be paid. The report was adopted.

113 kb

1889 - March 4 - *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 3 – Bell returned from Europe.

"Major Bell, of the Bell farm, has just returned from a prolonged European trip. He spent considerable time in Paris and leading cities on the continent."

1889 – March 13 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 1 – Bell appointed Indian Head rep. on Manitoba Rifle Assoc. Council



$2,210.80, balance in bank $42 31, total assets are $212 52.

Captains Benedict and Doidge were then appointed scrutineers, after which the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: Patron, Sir Donald A. Smith; vice-patrons, Premier of Manitoba, Mayor of Winnipeg, and the Chief Commissioner of the H. B. Co.; president, A. Logan, Esq.; vice-presidents, Lt.-Col. Boswell and W. M. Whyte, Esq.; council, Capt. Wastie, Brandon; Lieut. Brown, Portage la Prairie; Major Bell, Indian Head, N.W.T.; Inspector Norman, N. W. M.P., Regina; Private Gillies, Stony Mountain; Captains Balfour, Graburn, Bruce and Doidge, Lt. Benedict, Staff Sergeant Mitchell, Color Sergeant Kennon, Winnipeg. Representatives on council of Dominion Rifle Association, T. M. Daly, M.P., and Lt.-Col. D. A. McDonald, Ottawa. The thanks of the meeting were tendered the retiring officers and the chairman. The meeting then adjourned.

154 kb

1889 – March 26 - *Regina Leader,* p. 8 - Major Bell visits Regina (re-reported in March 31, 1939 issue, p. 4" – seems to refer to previous 1882 visit)

"Major Bell of Indian Head was a visitor in the capital during the weekend."

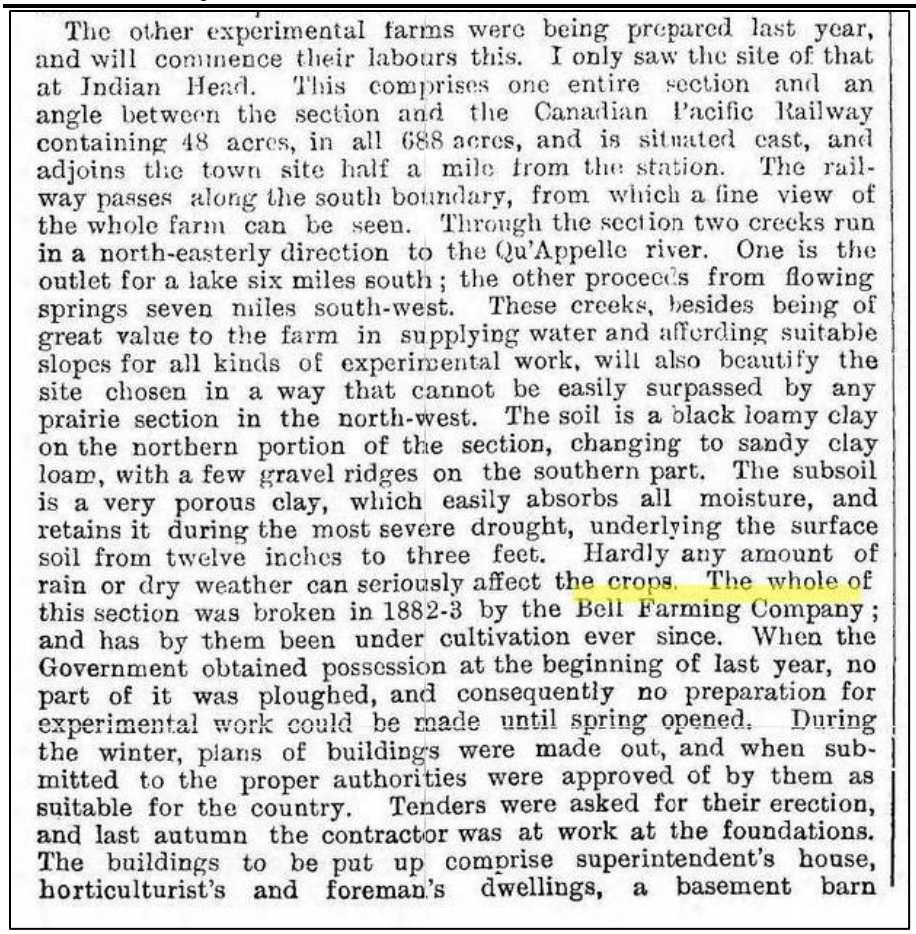
1889 – April – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
276	April 13, 1889	W. *?????*	Edinburgh	Scotland
277	"	*???* Percival *Nilupies*	*Canaan* House, Edinburgh	Scotland
278	"	Euphemia Forrest-Clay	Chicago	Illinois, USA : Wife of John Clay

1889 - April 8 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p.___ - seeding completed at the Bell Farm as reported in 1909, p. 10.

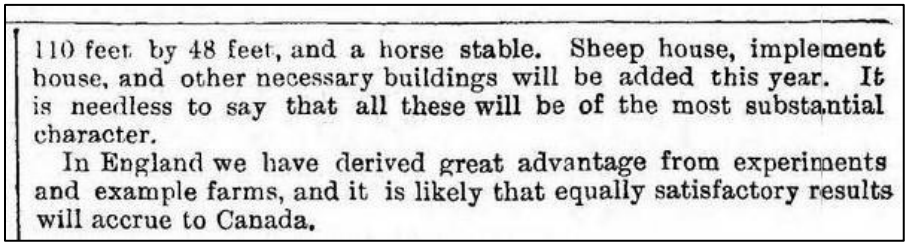
"WINNIPEG 20 YEARS AGO – "Seeding on the Bell farm is concluded."

1889 – April 10 – *Colonies and India*, p. 31 – Report on the new Experimental Farm, extracted from Bell Farm



The other experimental farms were being prepared last year, and will commence their labours this. I only saw the site of that at Indian Head. This comprises one entire section and an angle between the section and the Canadian Pacific Railway containing 48 acres, in all 688 acres, and is situated east, and adjoins the town site half a mile from the station. The railway passes along the south boundary, from which a fine view of the whole farm can be seen. Through the section two creeks run in a north-easterly direction to the Qu'Appelle river. One is the outlet for a lake six miles south; the other proceeds from flowing springs seven miles south-west. These creeks, besides being of great value to the farm in supplying water and affording suitable slopes for all kinds of experimental work, will also beautify the site chosen in a way that cannot be easily surpassed by any prairie section in the north-west. The soil is a black loamy clay on the northern portion of the section, changing to sandy clay loam, with a few gravel ridges on the southern part. The subsoil is a very porous clay, which easily absorbs all moisture, and retains it during the most severe drought, underlying the surface soil from twelve inches to three feet. Hardly any amount of rain or dry weather can seriously affect the crops. The whole of this section was broken in 1882-3 by the Bell Farming Company; and has by them been under cultivation ever since. When the Government obtained possession at the beginning of last year, no part of it was ploughed, and consequently no preparation for experimental work could be made until spring opened. During the winter, plans of buildings were made out, and when submitted to the proper authorities were approved of by them as suitable for the country. Tenders were asked for their erection, and last autumn the contractor was at work at the foundations. The buildings to be put up comprise superintendent's house, horticulturist's and foreman's dwellings, a basement barn

Part 1 of 2: 212 kb



110 feet by 48 feet, and a horse stable. Sheep house, implement house, and other necessary buildings will be added this year. It is needless to say that all these will be of the most substantial character.

In England we have derived great advantage from experiments and example farms, and it is likely that equally satisfactory results will accrue to Canada.

Part 2 of 2: 46 kb

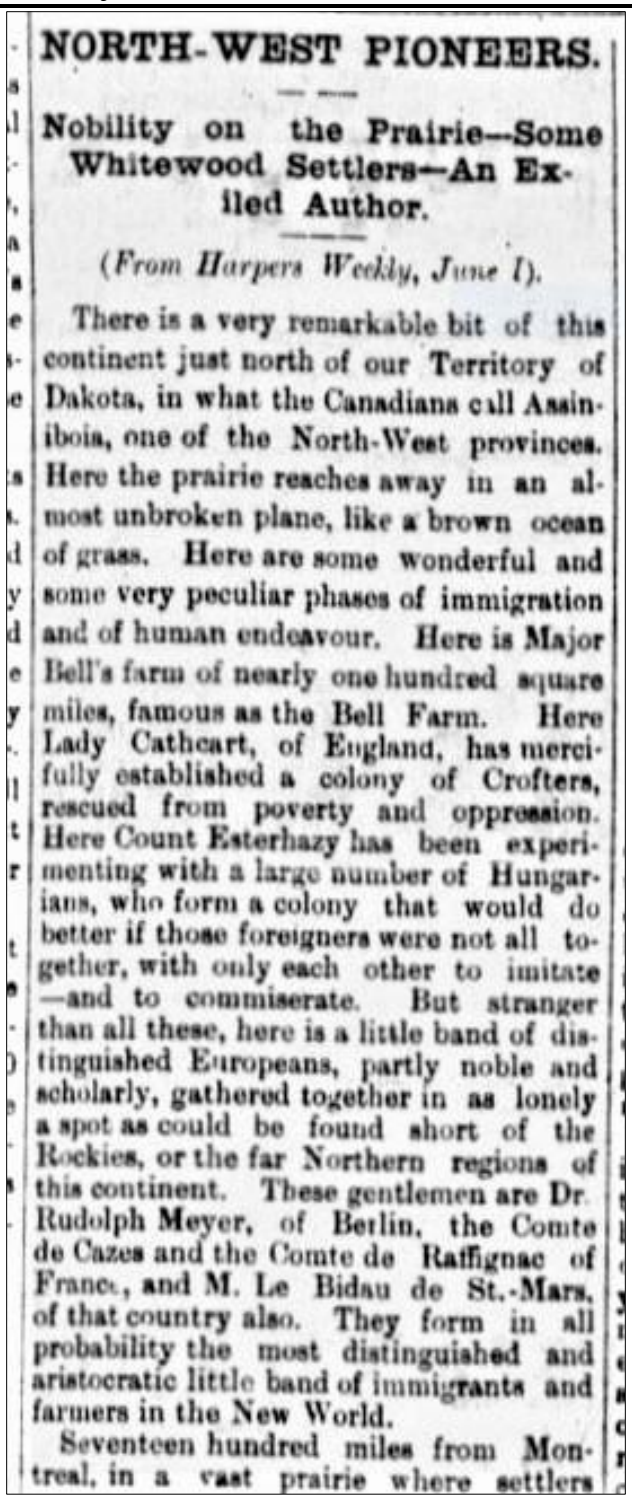
1889 – April 11 – Supreme Court of the North-West Territories formally winds up the Bell Farming Company

Source: Ed Morgan article: "The Bell Farm" in *Saskatchewan History*, Vol. XIX, 1966, p. 55, footnote 67: S.C. NWT, no. 327, 1889, The liquidator was still winding up affairs of the Company in 1902. [see S.C. NWT – no. 327, 1902.]

1889 – April 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"Indian Head." [Account of Gabriel Dumont (who "tips the scale at 230 lbs") and four "half-breeds" stopping at Indian Head on their way from Batoche to Montana, where they planned to collect 40 half breeds and 20 Indigenous men who took part in the Rebellion, including Big Bear's son. Will all proceed to France via New York to attend the world's fair in Paris. Not surprisingly, there's no mention of stopping at the Bell farm.] – check for details

1889 – June 11 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Report of major farming initiatives, including the Bell Farm



NORTH-WEST PIONEERS.

Nobility on the Prairie—Some Whitewood Settlers—An Exiled Author.

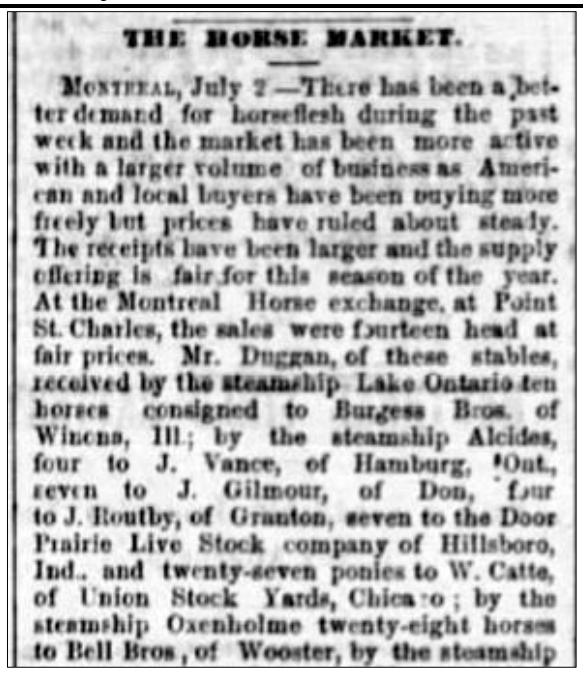
(From Harpers Weekly, June 1).

There is a very remarkable bit of this continent just north of our Territory of Dakota, in what the Canadians call Assiniboia, one of the North-West provinces. Here the prairie reaches away in an almost unbroken plane, like a brown ocean of grass. Here are some wonderful and some very peculiar phases of immigration and of human endeavour. Here is Major Bell's farm of nearly one hundred square miles, famous as the Bell Farm. Here Lady Cathcart, of England, has mercifully established a colony of Crofters, rescued from poverty and oppression. Here Count Esterhazy has been experimenting with a large number of Hungarians, who form a colony that would do better if those foreigners were not all together, with only each other to imitate —and to commiserate. But stranger than all these, here is a little band of distinguished Europeans, partly noble and scholarly, gathered together in as lonely a spot as could be found short of the Rockies, or the far Northern regions of this continent. These gentlemen are Dr. Rudolph Meyer, of Berlin, the Comte de Cazes and the Comte de Raffignac of France, and M. Le Bidau de St.-Mars, of that country also. They form in all probability the most distinguished and aristocratic little band of immigrants and farmers in the New World.

Seventeen hundred miles from Montreal, in a vast prairie where settlers

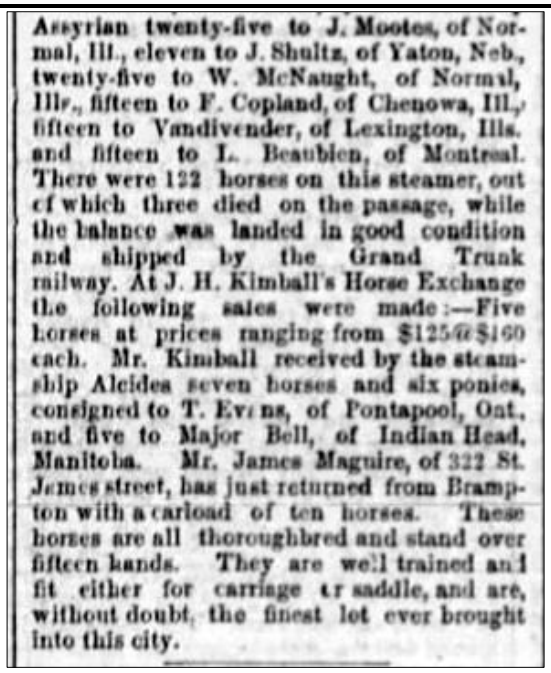
1889 – June 23 - *Winnipeg Tribune* - Ovington entered for the one mile Novelty Running *(same as Bill's clipping)* – *get copy of article*

1889 – July 3 – *Montreal Gazette* – Major Bell in Montreal to buy horses from Kimball's Horse Exchange



THE HORSE MARKET.

MONTREAL, July 2.—There has been a better demand for horseflesh during the past week and the market has been more active with a larger volume of business as American and local buyers have been buying more freely but prices have ruled about steady. The receipts have been larger and the supply offering is fair for this season of the year. At the Montreal Horse exchange, at Point St. Charles, the sales were fourteen head at fair prices. Mr. Duggan, of these stables, received by the steamship Lake Ontario ten horses consigned to Burgess Bros. of Winona, Ill.; by the steamship Alcides, four to J. Vance, of Hamburg, Ont., seven to J. Gilmour, of Don, four to J. Routby, of Granton, seven to the Door Prairie Live Stock company of Hillsboro, Ind., and twenty-seven ponies to W. Catte, of Union Stock Yards, Chicago; by the steamship Oxenholme twenty-eight horses to Bell Bros., of Wooster, by the steamship



Assyrian twenty-five to J. Mootes, of Normal, Ill., eleven to J. Shultz, of Yaton, Neb., twenty-five to W. McNaught, of Normal, Ills., fifteen to F. Copland, of Chenowa, Ills., fifteen to Vandivender, of Lexington, Ills. and fifteen to L. Beaublen, of Montreal. There were 122 horses on this steamer, out of which three died on the passage, while the balance was landed in good condition and shipped by the Grand Trunk railway. At J. H. Kimball's Horse Exchange the following sales were made:—Five horses at prices ranging from $125@$160 each. Mr. Kimball received by the steamship Alcides seven horses and six ponies, consigned to T. Evans, of Pontapool, Ont., and five to Major Bell, of Indian Head, Manitoba. Mr. James Maguire, of 322 St. James street, has just returned from Brampton with a carload of ten horses. These horses are all thoroughbred and stand over fifteen hands. They are well trained and fit either for carriage or saddle, and are, without doubt, the finest lot ever brought into this city.

46 kb 54 kb

1889 – June 6 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Indian Head . . . *Free Press.* The public will be interested in the announcement of the fact that it is now reliably reported that the large area of valuable lands held here heretofore by the Bell Farm company is about to be opened up for sale to actual settlers. It is reported on good authority that Major Bell has purchased 31,000 acres of these most valuable lands, situated in the finest district in the Territories and all within a few miles of the railway station. Terms will be made known forthwith, and it is to be hoped the lands will be settled up in a short time by good, pushing farmers and not fall into the hands of speculators."

1889 – June 14 – *Montreal Herald*, p. 1 – Bell reports of crops

> "**From the Prairie City.** Winnipeg, June 13 - . . . . Rain, which was much needed in this locality, fell to-day. Major Bell, of Indian Head farm, stats that more favourable weather for crops could not be wished for there."

1889 – July 3 – *Montreal Gazette*, p. 6 – Five horses shipped from England to Major Bell

> ". . . Five horses ranging in prices ranging from $125 to $160 each. Mr. Kimball received by the steamship Alcides seven horses and six ponies consigned to T. Evans of Pontapool, Ont., and five to Major Bell, of Indian Head, Manitoba."

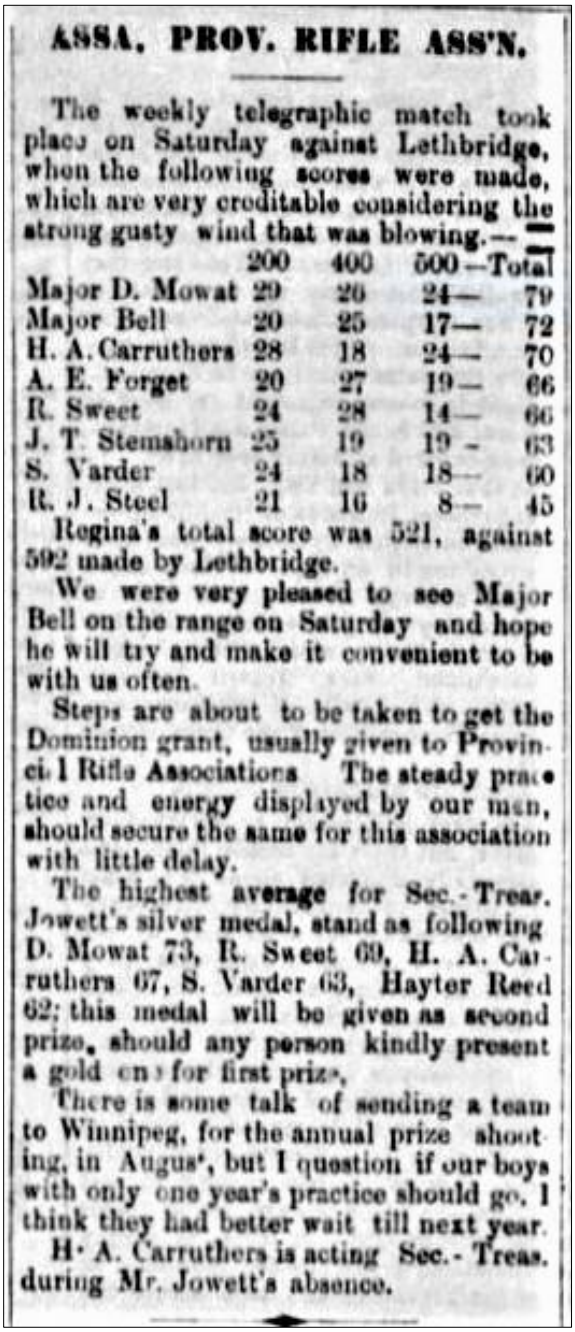
1889 – July 6 – John Brown's Blacksmith Account Book, p. 2 – Bell Farm work and payments
(Brown was a blacksmith operating in Indian Head, not on the Bell Farm)

- July 6 – set two shoes – 40 ¢ / cash $1.50
- July 9 – set two shoes – 40 ¢

1889 – July 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"Indian Head . . Major Bell returned from the east on Saturday and his mares arrived on Sunday. There are five thoroughbred Clydesdales mares, the stallion and one mare having been killed during a severe storm."

1889 – July 23 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell places second at Assiniboia Rifle Assoc. Shoot



ASSA. PROV. RIFLE ASS'N.

The weekly telegraphic match took place on Saturday against Lethbridge, when the following scores were made, which are very creditable considering the strong gusty wind that was blowing.—

	200	400	500	Total
Major D. Mowat	29	26	24	79
Major Bell	20	25	17	72
H. A. Carruthers	28	18	24	70
A. E. Forget	20	27	19	66
R. Sweet	24	28	14	66
J. T. Stemshorn	25	19	19	63
S. Varder	24	18	18	60
R. J. Steel	21	16	8	45

Regina's total score was 521, against 592 made by Lethbridge.

We were very pleased to see Major Bell on the range on Saturday and hope he will try and make it convenient to be with us often.

Steps are about to be taken to get the Dominion grant, usually given to Provincial Rifle Associations The steady practice and energy displayed by our men, should secure the same for this association with little delay.

The highest average for Sec.-Treas. Jowett's silver medal, stand as following D. Mowat 73, R. Sweet 69, H. A. Carruthers 67, S. Varder 63, Hayter Reed 62; this medal will be given as second prize, should any person kindly present a gold one for first prize.

There is some talk of sending a team to Winnipeg, for the annual prize shooting, in August, but I question if our boys with only one year's practice should go. I think they had better wait till next year.

H. A. Carruthers is acting Sec.-Treas. during Mr. Jowett's absence.

1889 – July 25 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __ (published in Fort Qu'Appelle)

Under "Local News: "Major W.R. Bell of Indian Head was in town yesterday."

1889 – July 30 – *Regina Leader*, p. 5: "Over the Prairie" – far left column – report on poor crops on the Bell Farm.

> "Most of the crops from Brandon west to Moosomin, with exceptional districts are poor. The crops between Moosomin and Indian Head, when I saw them, now three weeks ago, were also poor, excepting where the farmers have done their work well. From Indian Head to Regina the farmers are doing their work in rather a poor way. But at Indian Head Mr. McKay has some splendid grain; where well cultivated the crops look well – this is particularly the case at the Experimental Farm and the farm formerly owned by the McKay Farming Company. The Bell Farm shows up to poor advantage this year. *A great deal of grain has been sown there on stubble land, and it, without exception, is very poor.* I saw a number of eastern farmers who were so discouraged after seeing Mr. Bell's crops that they have gone back home again without buying. *This is a case where the fault rests entirely with the farming;* for wherever the grain was sown on summer *fallowed land the crops are great.*
>
> "In the Qu'Appelle Valley the land is not as good as at Indian Head, owing to a light sub-soil; in the valley the grain is generally poor, although there are some splendid farmers there, particularly in the Bonny castle settlement. . . . . ."

1889 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1488	L 17	SCNWT 14/89	R. Bell Vs. W. Brown	1888-1889	Not sure if R. Bell is W.R. Bell or someone else
1506	P 17	SCNWT 37/89	R.W. Sherwood Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1507	P 17	SCNWT 38/89	W.J. Harrop Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1508	P 17	SCNWT 39/89	T. Galbraith Vs.	1889	

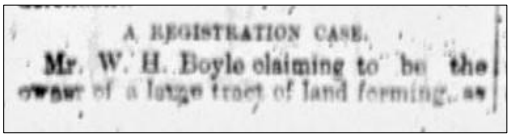
			W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown		
1509	P 17	SCNWT 40/89	W. Dixon Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1510	P 17	SCNWT 41/89	G. Smith Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1511	B 18	SCNWT 42/89	J.B. Swift Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1512	B 18	SCNWT 43/89	J. Thompson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1513	B 18	SCNWT 44/89	W.E. Hall Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1514	B 18	SCNWT 45/89	C. Hall Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1515	B 18	SCNWT 46/89	W. Ingram Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1516	B 18	SCNWT 47/89	S. Ingram Vs.	1889	

			W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown		
1517	C 18	SCNWT 48/89	E. Ingram Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1518	C 18	SCNWT 49/89	E.R. Hawkins Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1519	C 18	SCNWT 50/89	J. Hodkinson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1520	C 18	SCNWT 51/89	J. Sanderson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1521	C 18	SCNWT 52/89	J. Will Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1522	C 18	SCNWT 53/89	T. Cutt Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1523	D 18	SCNWT 54/89	E. Thompson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1524	D 18	SCNWT 55/89	J. Maguire Vs.	1889	

			W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown		
1525	D 18	SCNWT 56/89	J. Ligget Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1526	D 18	SCNWT 57/89	W. Harrop Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1527	D 18	SCNWT 58/89	A. Wilson Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1528	D 18	SCNWT 59/89	W. Jeans Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1529	D 18	SCNWT 60/89	M. Seddon Vs. W.R. Bell, T. Howard, W.R. Allan, F.H. Brydges, F.W. Stobart, R.I. Rokeby, F. Storer Brown	1889	
1542	G 18	SCNWT 73/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J. Hodgkinson	1889	
1543	G 18	SCNWT 74/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J. Hodgkinson	1889	
1544	G 18	SCNWT 75/89	W.R. Bell Vs. E.R. Hawkins	1889	
1545	G 18	SCNWT 76/89	W.R. Bell Vs. E.R. Hawkins	1889	
1546	G 18	SCNWT 77/89	W.R. Bell Vs., W.E. Hall	1889	
1547	H 18	SCNWT 78/89	W.R. Bell Vs.	1889	

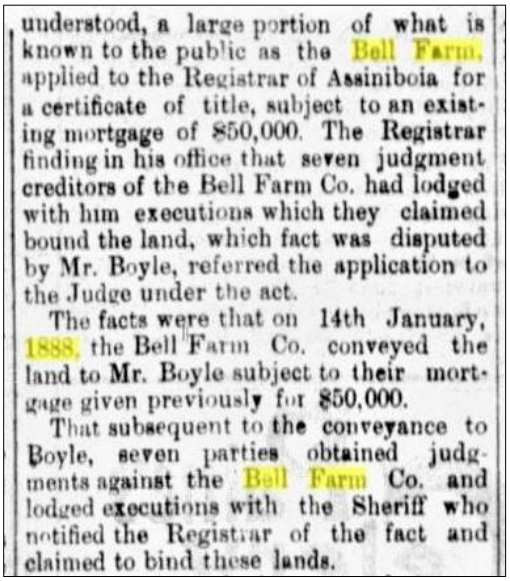
			W.E. Hall		
1548	H 18	SCNWT 79/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J.B. Swift	1889	
1549	H 18	SCNWT 80/89	W.R. Bell Vs. J.B. Swift	1889	
1634	H 01	SCNWT 168/89	J. Glenn Vs. W.R. Bell	1889-1891	Microfiche R16/10-2
1657	L 01	SCNWT ---/89	W.R. Bell Vs. P. Bestwick	1889	
1701	D 02	SCNWT 43/90	Brine McDonald Vs. W.H. Bell	1890	Is "H" a typo for "R", or is W.H. bell another person? (also files 1753, 1755, 1838) – NOTE: A person named "W.H. Bell" lived in Qu'Appelle at this time
1741	K 02	SCNWT 83/90	A.J. Osment Vs. T. Marston	1889-1890	
1745	L 02	SCNWT 87/90	A.J. Osment Vs. Canadian Co-operative Colonization Co.	1890-1891	CCCC was part of the Brassey Farm operation

1889 – Sept. 17 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Court Case over land ownership: Boyle vs Bell – Boyle won



A REGISTRATION CASE.

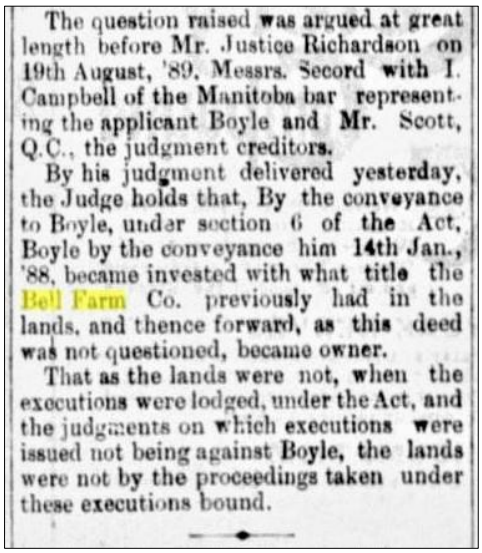
Mr. W. H. Boyle claiming to be the owner of a large tract of land forming, as



understood, a large portion of what is known to the public as the Bell Farm, applied to the Registrar of Assiniboia for a certificate of title, subject to an existing mortgage of $50,000. The Registrar finding in his office that seven judgment creditors of the Bell Farm Co. had lodged with him executions which they claimed bound the land, which fact was disputed by Mr. Boyle, referred the application to the Judge under the act.

The facts were that on 14th January, 1888, the Bell Farm Co. conveyed the land to Mr. Boyle subject to their mortgage given previously for $50,000.

That subsequent to the conveyance to Boyle, seven parties obtained judgments against the Bell Farm Co. and lodged executions with the Sheriff who notified the Registrar of the fact and claimed to bind these lands.



The question raised was argued at great length before Mr. Justice Richardson on 19th August, '89. Messrs. Secord with I. Campbell of the Manitoba bar representing the applicant Boyle and Mr. Scott, Q.C., the judgment creditors.

By his judgment delivered yesterday, the Judge holds that, By the conveyance to Boyle, under section 6 of the Act, Boyle by the conveyance him 14th Jan., '88, became invested with what title the Bell Farm Co. previously had in the lands, and thence forward, as this deed was not questioned, became owner.

That as the lands were not, when the executions were lodged, under the Act, and the judgments on which executions were issued not being against Boyle, the lands were not by the proceedings taken under these executions bound.

107 & 103 kb

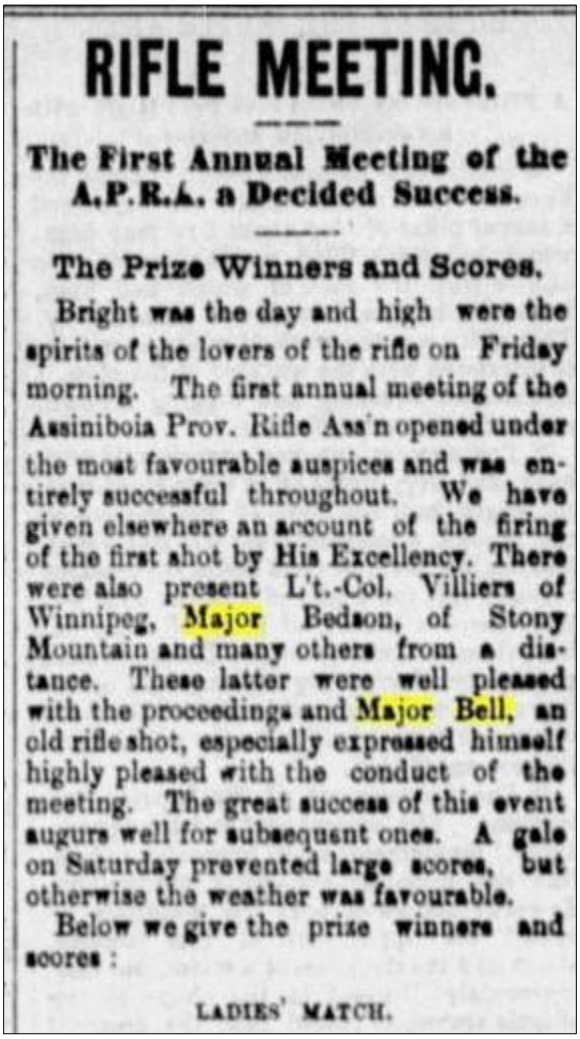
1889 – Sept. 26 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

"Major Bell is shipping a train load of No. 1 hard today (Saturday.)"

1889 – Oct. 7 – *Sessional Paper* No. 12 (pub. 1890), Vol. 10, p. 12-143 – McGibbon's report on Indian labour at Bell and Kaye's Farms

"The first reserve inspected by me was "Standing Buffalo's," Sioux No. 78; area, 7.5 square miles; population, 200. The houses were clean and tidy; most of the Indians were absent, working on the Bell Farm and for Sir John Lister Kaye. . . . . ." - *Inspector of Indian Agencies and Reserves (A.G. McGibbon), Regina*

1889 – Oct. 8 – *Regina Leader* p. 8 – Rifle Meeting – Major Bell's scores



RIFLE MEETING.

The First Annual Meeting of the A.P.R.A. a Decided Success.

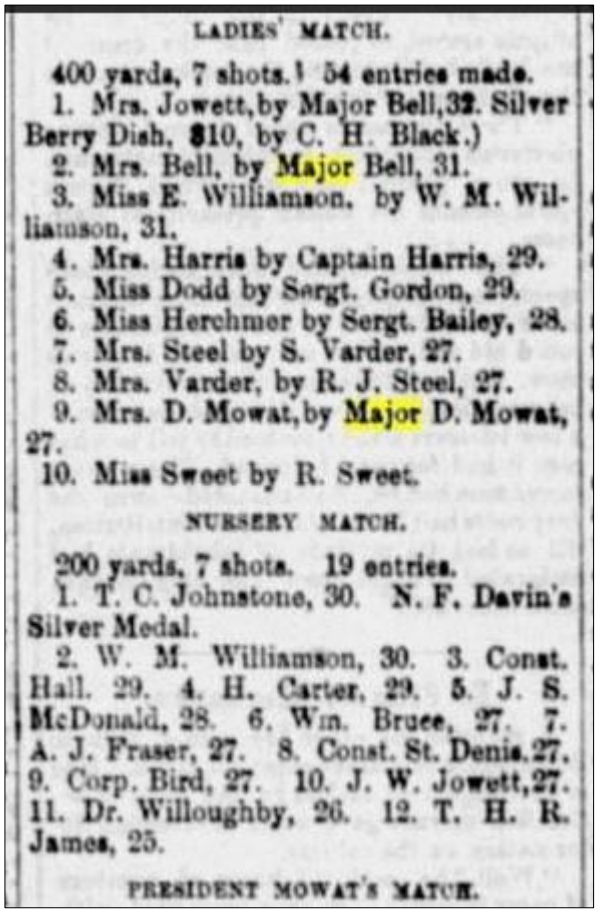
The Prize Winners and Scores.

Bright was the day and high were the spirits of the lovers of the rifle on Friday morning. The first annual meeting of the Assiniboia Prov. Rifle Ass'n opened under the most favourable auspices and was entirely successful throughout. We have given elsewhere an account of the firing of the first shot by His Excellency. There were also present L't.-Col. Villiers of Winnipeg, Major Bedson, of Stony Mountain and many others from a distance. These latter were well pleased with the proceedings and Major Bell, an old rifle shot, especially expressed himself highly pleased with the conduct of the meeting. The great success of this event augurs well for subsequent ones. A gale on Saturday prevented large scores, but otherwise the weather was favourable.

Below we give the prize winners and scores :

LADIES' MATCH.

Part 1 89 kb



LADIES' MATCH.

400 yards, 7 shots. 54 entries made.

1. Mrs. Jowett, by Major Bell, 32. Silver Berry Dish, $10, by C. H. Black.)
2. Mrs. Bell, by Major Bell, 31.
3. Miss E. Williamson, by W. M. Williamson, 31.
4. Mrs. Harris by Captain Harris, 29.
5. Miss Dodd by Sergt. Gordon, 29.
6. Miss Herchmer by Sergt. Bailey, 28.
7. Mrs. Steel by S. Varder, 27.
8. Mrs. Varder, by R. J. Steel, 27.
9. Mrs. D. Mowat, by Major D. Mowat, 27.
10. Miss Sweet by R. Sweet.

NURSERY MATCH.

200 yards, 7 shots. 19 entries.

1. T. C. Johnstone, 30. N. F. Davin's Silver Medal.
2. W. M. Williamson, 30. 3. Const. Hall. 29. 4. H. Carter, 29. 5. J. S. McDonald, 28. 6. Wm. Bruce, 27. 7. A. J. Fraser, 27. 8. Const. St. Denis, 27. 9. Corp. Bird, 27. 10. J. W. Jowett, 27. 11. Dr. Willoughby, 26. 12. T. H. R. James, 25.

PRESIDENT MOWAT'S MATCH.

Part 2 83 kb

PRESIDENT MOWAT'S MATCH.

200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots. 39 entries.

1. H. A. Carruthers, 83, Silver water Pitcher and Cup and $5,

2. $6, Corp. St, Denis, 75. 3. $4, W. Bruce (Moosomin) 74. 4. $3, R. Sweet, 74, 5. $3, Sergt. Gordon, (F Troop) 74. 6 $2, Major Bell, 72 7 $2, Const Hall, (F Troop) 71. 8 Corp Fleming (F Troop 71. 9 Corp Bird, 71. 10 Major Gagnon, 70. 11 F Nash, 70. 12 R J Steel, 70.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNER'S MATCH.

400 yards, 7 shots, 29 entries

1 L Abbey (Moosejaw) 31 Governor's Cup and $5

2 Major Bell 30, $6 3 R Sweet 30, $4 4 H A Carruthers 30, $3 5 Corp Fleming (F Troop) 30, $3 6 Capt Harris (Moosomin) 30, $2 7 Serg Gordon (F Troop) 30, $2 8 Const Connor (F Troop) 29 9 R J Steel, 28 10 Major Stewart, 27 11 Corp St George (F Troop) 27 12 Dr Willoughby 26

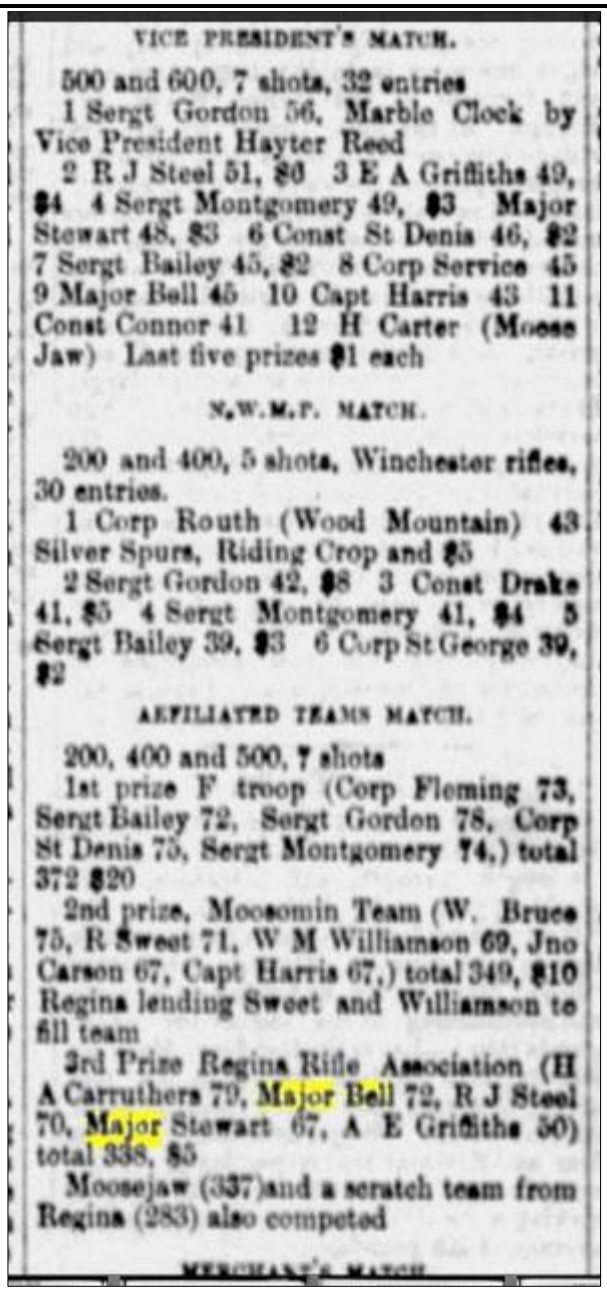
Three twenty-sixes counted out The last five prizes in this match were $1 each,

BELL MATCH.

200, 500 and 600, 7 shots, 47 entries

1 Sergt Gordon (F troop) 80, $12 2 Major Bell 70, $7 3 E A Griffiths 68, $5 4 Major Stewart 67, $4 5 Sergt Montgomery 67, $3 6 Corp St George 64, $2 7 Wm Bruce (Moosomin) 64, $2 8 J T Stemshorn 62 9 Const Hall 62 10 L Abbey 62 11 H A Carruthers 62 12 Const Drake 61 Last five prizes $1 each

VICE PRESIDENT'S MATCH.



VICE PRESIDENT'S MATCH.

500 and 600, 7 shots, 32 entries

1 Sergt Gordon 56, Marble Clock by Vice President Hayter Reed

2 R J Steel 51, $6 3 E A Griffiths 49, $4 4 Sergt Montgomery 49, $3 Major Stewart 48, $3 6 Const St Denis 46, $2 7 Sergt Bailey 45, $2 8 Corp Service 45 9 Major Bell 45 10 Capt Harris 43 11 Const Connor 41 12 H Carter (Moose Jaw) Last five prizes $1 each

N.W.M.P. MATCH.

200 and 400, 5 shots, Winchester rifles, 30 entries.

1 Corp Routh (Wood Mountain) 43 Silver Spurs, Riding Crop and $5

2 Sergt Gordon 42, $8 3 Const Drake 41, $5 4 Sergt Montgomery 41, $4 5 Sergt Bailey 39, $3 6 Corp St George 39, $2

AFFILIATED TEAMS MATCH.

200, 400 and 500, 7 shots

1st prize F troop (Corp Fleming 73, Sergt Bailey 72, Sergt Gordon 78, Corp St Denis 75, Sergt Montgomery 74,) total 372 $20

2nd prize, Moosomin Team (W. Bruce 75, R Sweet 71, W M Williamson 69, Jno Carson 67, Capt Harris 67,) total 349, $10 Regina lending Sweet and Williamson to fill team

3rd Prize Regina Rifle Association (H A Carruthers 79, Major Bell 72, R J Steel 70, Major Stewart 67, A E Griffiths 50) total 338, $5

Moosejaw (337)and a scratch team from Regina (283) also competed

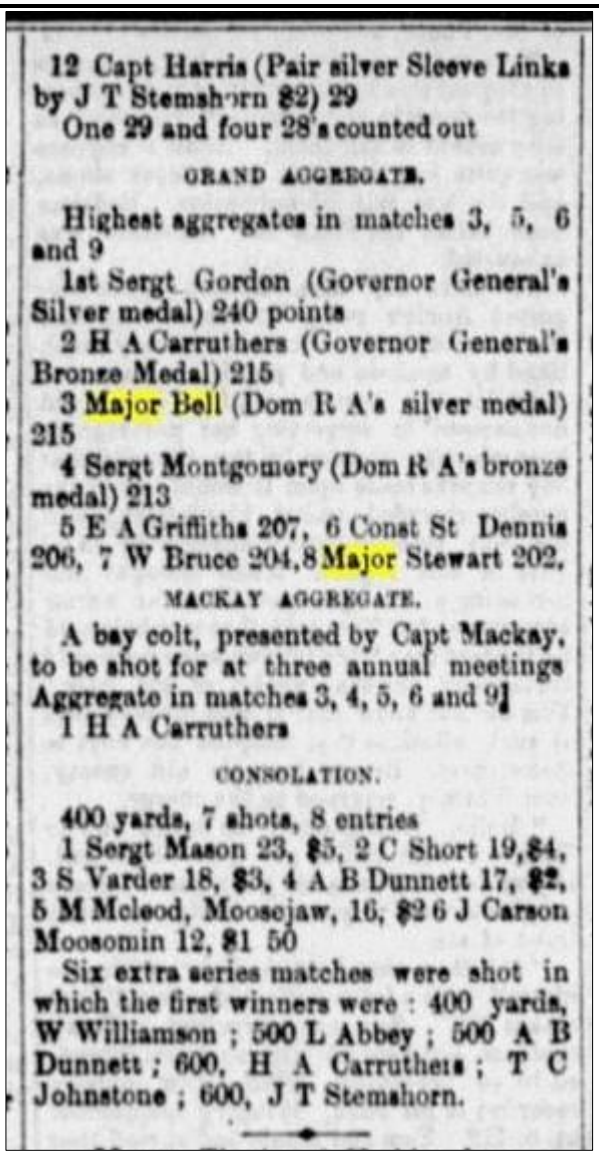
MERCHANT'S MATCH

Part 3 104 kb

Part 4 96 kb

MERCHANT'S MATCH.

200 yards, 7 shots, 41 entries
1 Const St Dennis, (Persian Lamb Cap by J F Mowat $10) 31
2 Const Drake, (Silver Butter Cooler by Capt Harris $10) 31
3 H A Carruthers (Silver Card Receiver by J G Turriff $8 50) 31
4 Sergt Gordon (pair trousers by Burton Bros $8) score 30
5 H Carter (Meerschaum pipe by R J Steel, $7 50) 30
6 R Sweet (Stand Lamp by J W Smith $5) 30
7 Sergt Montgomery (meat to value of $5 by Child & Co) 30
8 Major Stewart (Albert Gold Chain, A Daykin, $4 50) 29
9 L Abbey (Silver Mounted Briar Pipe by L W Bole, $4 50) 29
10 Sergt Bailey (Suit underclothing by E J Hill, $3) 29
11 Const [illegible] (Tobacco Jar by S Varder



12 Capt Harris (Pair silver Sleeve Links by J T Stemshorn $2) 29
One 29 and four 28's counted out

GRAND AGGREGATE.

Highest aggregates in matches 3, 5, 6 and 9
1st Sergt Gordon (Governor General's Silver medal) 240 points
2 H A Carruthers (Governor General's Bronze Medal) 215
3 Major Bell (Dom R A's silver medal) 215
4 Sergt Montgomery (Dom R A's bronze medal) 213
5 E A Griffiths 207, 6 Const St Dennis 206, 7 W Bruce 204, 8 Major Stewart 202.

MACKAY AGGREGATE.

A bay colt, presented by Capt Mackay, to be shot for at three annual meetings Aggregate in matches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9
1 H A Carruthers

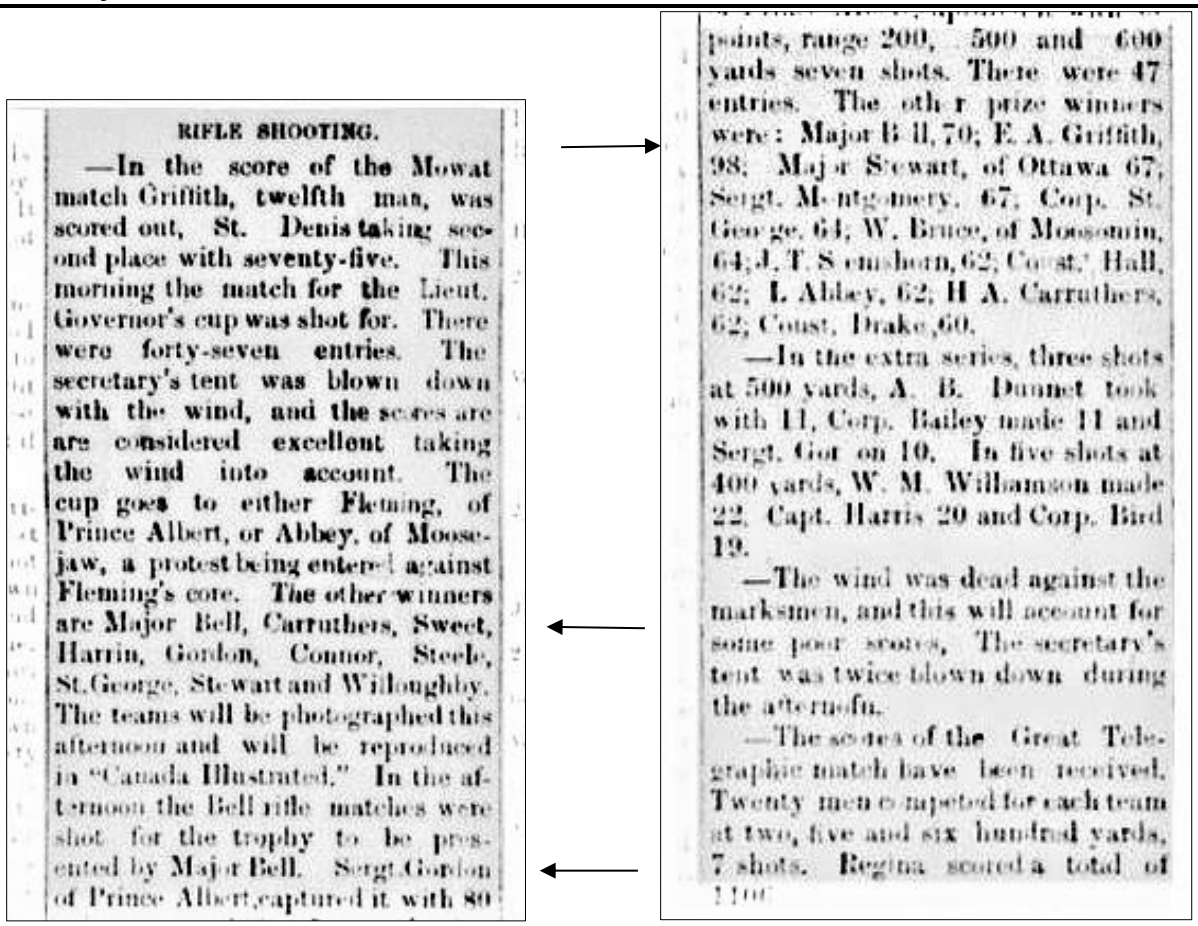
CONSOLATION.

400 yards, 7 shots, 8 entries
1 Sergt Mason 23, $5, 2 C Short 19, $4, 3 S Varder 18, $3, 4 A B Dunnett 17, $2, 5 M Mcleod, Moosejaw, 16, $2 6 J Carson Moosomin 12, $1 50
Six extra series matches were shot in which the first winners were : 400 yards, W Williamson ; 500 L Abbey ; 500 A B Dunnett ; 600, H A Carruthers ; T C Johnstone ; 600, J T Stemshorn.

Part 5 70 kb

Part 6 94 kb

1889 – Oct. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 1 – Major Bell in Regina rifle competition



RIFLE SHOOTING.

—In the score of the Mowat match Griffith, twelfth man, was scored out, St. Denis taking second place with seventy-five. This morning the match for the Lieut. Governor's cup was shot for. There were forty-seven entries. The secretary's tent was blown down with the wind, and the scores are are considered excellent taking the wind into account. The cup goes to either Fleming, of Prince Albert, or Abbey, of Moose-jaw, a protest being entered against Fleming's core. The other winners are Major Bell, Carruthers, Sweet, Harris, Gordon, Connor, Steele, St. George, Stewart and Willoughby. The teams will be photographed this afternoon and will be reproduced in "Canada Illustrated." In the afternoon the Bell rifle matches were shot for the trophy to be presented by Major Bell. Sergt. Gordon of Prince Albert, captured it with 80

points, range 200, 500 and 600 yards seven shots. There were 47 entries. The other prize winners were: Major Bell, 70; E. A. Griffith, 98; Major Stewart, of Ottawa 67, Sergt. Montgomery, 67, Corp. St. George, 64; W. Bruce, of Moosomin, 64; J. T. Smithson, 62; Coust. Hall, 62; L. Abbey, 62; H. A. Carruthers, 62; Coust. Drake, 60.

—In the extra series, three shots at 500 yards, A. B. Dunnet took with 11, Corp. Bailey made 11 and Sergt. Gist on 10. In five shots at 400 yards, W. M. Williamson made 22, Capt. Harris 20 and Corp. Bird 19.

—The wind was dead against the marksmen, and this will account for some poor scores. The secretary's tent was twice blown down during the afternoon.

—The scores of the Great Telegraphic match have been received. Twenty men competed for each team at two, five and six hundred yards, 7 shots. Regina scored a total of 1100

1889 – Dec. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> "Indian Head . . . On Monday night Major Bell's bull got into a 'big tear' and made it interesting for several of the inhabitants. Fortunately no one was hurt, but several were badly scared and suffered from shortness of breath for some time."

1889 – Dec. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1

> "Indian Head . . . The Municipal Council met on Saturday . . . the claim of Major Bell for credit of 60 days statute labor was not entertained."

1890

1890 – Sale of lands to Lord Brassey

> (Brassey bought much of the land sold at the dissolution of Bell's corporate farm. Jan 26, 1898): Legal description of land sold in 1897 from Brassey estate. Includes buyers' names.]

1890 – Jan. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"Indian Head . . . The Municipal Council met today . . . The claim of Major Bell for credit of 60 days statute labour was not entertained." *(copied from an end-of-December item in the Progress.)*

1890 – Jan. 4 – *Edmonton Bulletin* – p. 1 – Bell and Lister Kaye project crops

"Sir John Lester Kaye, and Major Bell announce that their operations next season will be on a much larger scale than last year."

1890 – Jan. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

" from the North West Territories Gazette . . . Resignation of Game Guardian accepted, Lt. Col. Percy GB Lake of Grenfell, Assiniboia . . . " *[see the Bell Farm Visitors Register for Sept 16, 1887]*

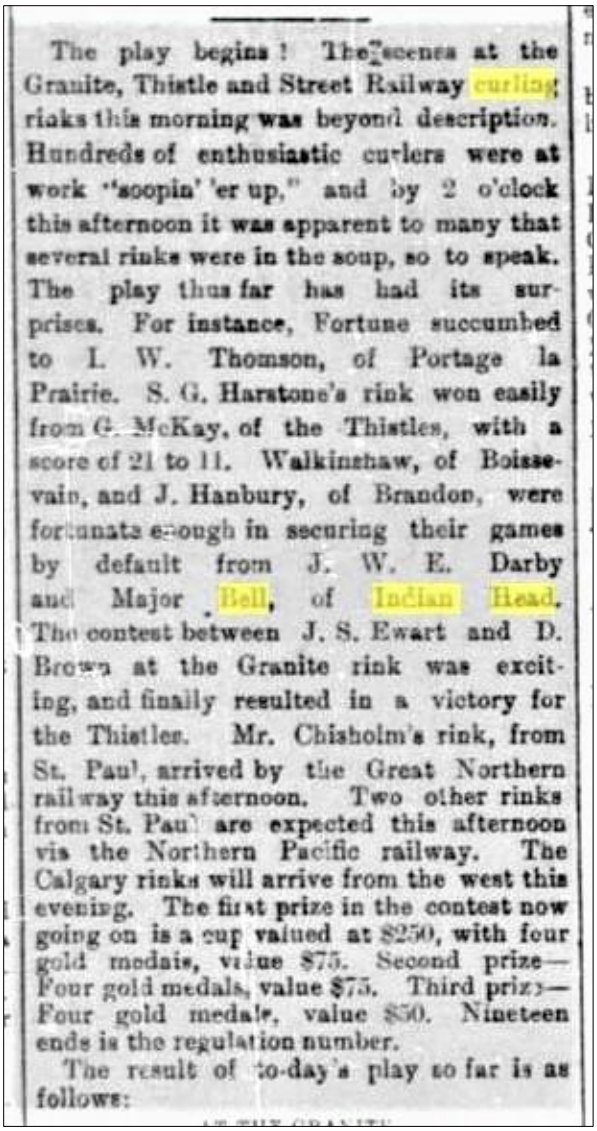
1890 - Jan. 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __– check for details

[Under "Grenfell" is the report that "Arthur Frederick Lake, youngest son of Lt. Col Lake" died in England. This is included this because of an Arthur J Lake is entered in the Bell Farm Visitors Register on Sept 16, 1887. This *Progress* entry would seem to tell us who he was.]

1890 – Feb. 6 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Major Bell in Ottawa

"**PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT.** Major Bell is at the Dominion capital."

1890 – Feb. 11 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 4 – Major Bell is skip on curling team



The play begins! The scenes at the Granite, Thistle and Street Railway curling rinks this morning was beyond description. Hundreds of enthusiastic curlers were at work "soopin' 'er up," and by 2 o'clock this afternoon it was apparent to many that several rinks were in the soup, so to speak. The play thus far has had its surprises. For instance, Fortune succumbed to I. W. Thomson, of Portage la Prairie. S. G. Haratone's rink won easily from G. McKay, of the Thistles, with a score of 21 to 11. Walkinshaw, of Boissevain, and J. Hanbury, of Brandon, were fortunate enough in securing their games by default from J. W. E. Darby and Major Bell, of Indian Head. The contest between J. S. Ewart and D. Brown at the Granite rink was exciting, and finally resulted in a victory for the Thistles. Mr. Chisholm's rink, from St. Paul, arrived by the Great Northern railway this afternoon. Two other rinks from St. Paul are expected this afternoon via the Northern Pacific railway. The Calgary rinks will arrive from the west this evening. The first prize in the contest now going on is a cup valued at $250, with four gold medals, value $75. Second prize—Four gold medals, value $75. Third prize—Four gold medals, value $50. Nineteen ends is the regulation number.

The result of to-day's play so far is as follows:

Portage la Prairie.	Thistle (Winnipeg.)
S. Bannerman,	W. A. Carson,
D. C. Livingstone,	F. W. Anderson,
W. Bell,	Dr. Jamieson,
W. M. Smith, skip...11	S. R. Edwards, skip..21
Keewatin (Ont.)	Portage la Prairie.
J. Walls,	H. S. Paterson,
J. Maxwell,	J. O. Cadham,
R. Murray,	R Roxburgh,
R. Evans, skip 20	W. J. Cooper, skip....15
Stonewall.	Virden.
Cliff,	Simpson,
W. G. Rutherford,	W. D. Craig,
D. A. Hardisty,	R. Gardiner,
N. Macdonald, skip ..19	W. J. Kennedy, skip..13

AT THE STREET CAR COMPANY'S RINK.

Granite (Winnipeg).	Thistle (Winnipeg.)
S. A. Rowbotham,	Jas. Tees,
J. A. Mitchell,	W. F. Payne,
W. H. Grant,	T. H. Verner,
H. G. Wilson, skip..26	G. H. Campbell, sk.. 9
Stonewall.	Granite (Winnipeg)
G. Johnston,	J. Lemon,
J. McCullough,	F. G. Walsh,
T. Kennedy,	Alex. McDonald,
W. Lindsay, skip....24	C. A. Boxer, skip.... 9
Carberry.	Portage la Prairie.
Angus McPhail,	J. P. Porter,
J. A. Logan,	R. Fortune,
Wm. Hope,	A. A. McLellan,
A. D. Ross, skip....14	S. R. Marlatt, skip..13
Stony Mountain.	Morden.
Rev. Mr. Goulding	A. W. McCallum,
D. Smith,	J. J. Lane,
Thos. Kean,	A. Cruickshanks,
Lt.-Col. Bedson, skip 16	T. J. Mather, skip....14
Granite (Winnipeg).	Virden (Man.)
H. B. Dumphrey,	J. English,
Thos. Montgomery,	A. McGuffan,
G. A. Glines,	S. Wyatt,
James Hanby, skip.. 20	W. Cobb, skip..... 10
Indian Head (Assa.)	Brandon (Man.)
G. P. Murray,	J. Mann,
W. H. Lee,	C. C. Helliwell,
F. Morgan,	W. Johnston,
Major Bell, skip.... 00	J. Hanbury, skip.... 19 —By default

Keewatin (Ont.) Virden (Man.)

Part 1 107 kb

Part 2 118 kb

1890 – Feb. 12 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 4 – Major Bell is skip on one of two Indian Head curling teams

WALKERVILLE TANKARD.

The Contest Commences This Morning—Ewart's Rink Defeated.

The Walkerville Tankard competition commenced this morning. The competition is open only to clubs affiliated with the Manitoba Branch of the R. C. C. C. The match played on the first draw this morning resulted:

T. G. Mather	25	vs. R. R. Keith	6
W. R. Boyd	13	vs. H. Mann	12
Capt. Wastie	18	vs. D. H. McDowall	7
G. A. F. Andrews	18	vs. J. S. Ewart	10
J. Sinclair	18	vs. J. Andrew	11
G. McKay	21	vs. R Marlatt	15
C. A. Boxer	12	vs. W. Lyon	10
W. Cobb	25	vs. W. McKenzie	11
W. M. Smith	23	vs. W. J. Kennedy	4
Trumbell	19	vs. Walkinshaw	8

La Penotiere has defaulted to W. H. Sparling.

The balance of the first draw remaining to be played is as follows:

Col. Bedson vs. W. W. McMillan.
W. G. Fraser vs. H. G. Wilson.
F. L. Patton vs. F. M. Morgan.
Dr. Clarke vs. I. W. Thomson.
G. H. Campbell vs. S. R. Edwards.
J. McKechnie vs. A. Grant.
T. Nichol vs. Dr. Dalgleish.
Dr. Gillies vs. N. McDonald.
L. H. Erb vs. W. J. Cooper.
J. P. Robertson vs. D. Brown.
A. D. Ross vs. J. Thomson.
M. Fortune vs. R. Evans.
J. Pace vs. A. Fleming.
G. G. Graham vs. J. Robertson.
W. A. Perry vs. W. R. Bell.
S. G. Haratone vs. D. Farquhar.
E. J. Sparling vs. J. Watson.
J. Hanbury vs. L. C. McIntyre.
J. Hanby vs. H. N. Ruttan.
W. Lindsay vs. C. R. Dunsford.

The following rinks will play on the street car company's ice this afternoon:

McKecknie vs. Grant.
Gillies vs. McDonald.
Fortune vs. Evans.
Pace vs. Fleming.
Perry vs. Bell.
E. J. Sparling vs. Watson.
Hanbury vs. McIntyre.

At 7.30 this evening the contests in the Granite have so far been arranged as follows:

Campbell vs. Edwards.
Erb. vs. Cooper.
Graham vs. James Robertson.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

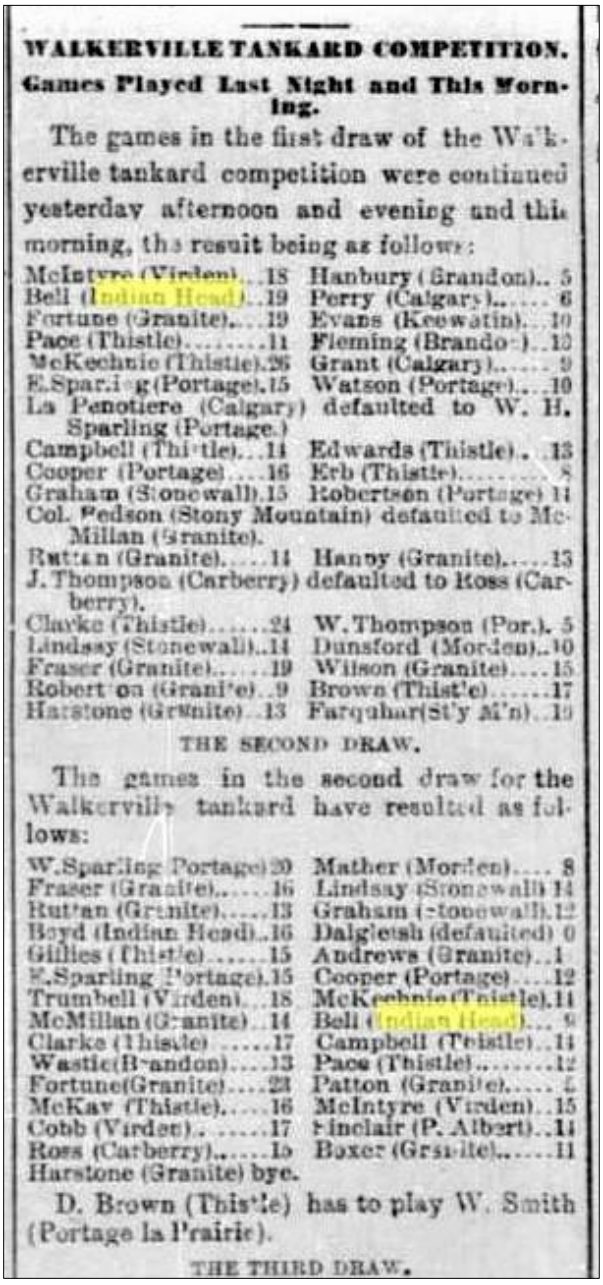
Part 1 117 kb

INDIAN HEAD.

Assiniboia sends two rinks, under command of Major Bell and W. R Boyd. Among the players is Mr. R. Crawford, well-known to many of our citizens. It is said an Englishman cannot play the game, yet A. J. Osment, a native of the tight little island, comes here as first man for Mr. Boyd. Ontario claims three of the Indian Head contingent, Messrs. Bell, W. H. Lee and W. R. Boyd; G. P. Murray comes from Nova Scotia, and Messrs. R. Crawford and D. Maclean are natives of Scotland. All of these gentlemen are in business for themselves.

Part 2 62 kb

1890 – Feb. 13 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Bell defeats Perry; and McMillan defeats Bell in curling bonspiel



WALKERVILLE TANKARD COMPETITION.

Games Played Last Night and This Morning.

The games in the first draw of the Walkerville tankard competition were continued yesterday afternoon and evening and this morning, the result being as follows:

McIntyre (Virden)...18 Hanbury (Grandon).. 5
Bell (Indian Head)..19 Perry (Calgary)..... 6
Fortune (Granite)....19 Evans (Keewatin)....10
Pace (Thistle).....11 Fleming (Brandon)..10
McKechnie (Thistle).26 Grant (Calgary)..... 9
E.Sparling (Portage).15 Watson (Portage)....10
La Penotiere (Calgary) defaulted to W. H. Sparling (Portage.)
Campbell (Thistle)...14 Edwards (Thistle).. 13
Cooper (Portage)....16 Erb (Thistle)..... 8
Graham (Stonewall).15 Robertson (Portage) 11
Col. Pedson (Stony Mountain) defaulted to McMillan (Granite).
Rattan (Granite).....14 Hanby (Granite).....13
J. Thompson (Carberry) defaulted to Ross (Carberry).
Clarke (Thistle).....24 W. Thompson (Por.). 5
Lindsay (Stonewall)..14 Dunsford (Morden)..10
Fraser (Granite).....19 Wilson (Granite)....15
Robertson (Granite)..9 Brown (Thistle).....17
Harstone (Granite)..13 Farquhar(St'y M'n)..15

THE SECOND DRAW.

The games in the second draw for the Walkerville tankard have resulted as follows:

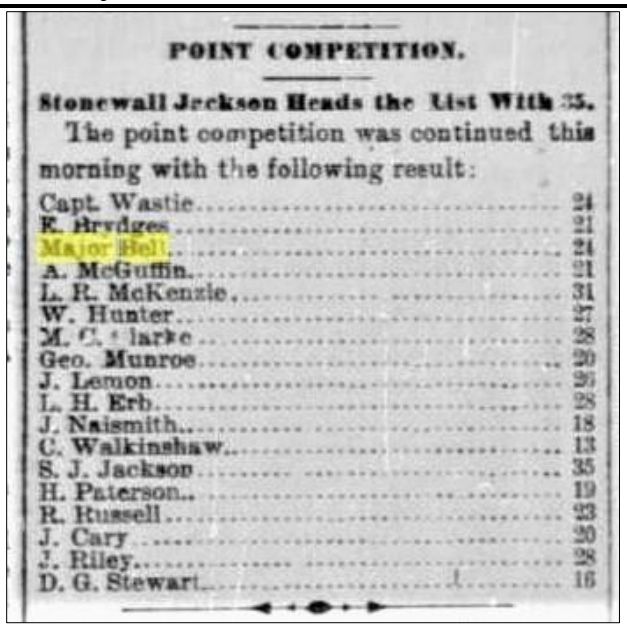
W.Sparling (Portage)20 Mather (Morden)..... 8
Fraser (Granite).....16 Lindsay (Stonewall) 14
Rattan (Granite).....13 Graham (Stonewall).12
Boyd (Indian Head)..16 Dalgleish (defaulted) 0
Gillies (Thistle).....15 Andrews (Granite)..1
E.Sparling (Portage).15 Cooper (Portage)....12
Trumbell (Virden)...18 McKechnie (Thistle).14
McMillan (Granite)...14 Bell (Indian Head)... 9
Clarke (Thistle).....17 Campbell (Thistle)..14
Wastie(Brandon)....13 Pace (Thistle).....12
Fortune(Granite)....23 Patton (Granite)..... 5
McKay (Thistle).....16 McIntyre (Virden)..15
Cobb (Virden).....17 Sinclair (P. Albert)..14
Ross (Carberry).....15 Boxer (Granite).....11
Harstone (Granite) bye.

D. Brown (Thistle) has to play W. Smith (Portage la Prairie).

THE THIRD DRAW.

116 kb

1890 – Feb. 15 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4- Major Bell curing in Manitoba Bonspiel



POINT COMPETITION.

Stonewall Jackson Heads the List With 35.

The point competition was continued this morning with the following result:

Capt. Wastie	24
E. Brydges	21
Major Bell	24
A. McGuffin	21
L. R. McKenzie	31
W. Hunter	37
M. C. Clarke	28
Geo. Munroe	20
J. Lemon	26
L. H. Erb	28
J. Naismith	18
C. Walkinshaw	13
S. J. Jackson	35
H. Paterson	19
R. Russell	23
J. Cary	20
J. Riley	28
D. G. Stewart	16

75 kb

1890 – March 1 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 1 – Bell is in Ottawa

> ". . . . Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in the city. . . . ."

1890 – March 2 – Major Bell in Ottawa (see March 6 *Brandon Mail* report)

1890 – March 3 - *Winnipeg Daily Tribune ,* p. 1, col 7 – Bell sells off part of the Bell Farm.

> "TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES . . . . . Major Bell is reported to have sold that portion of his farm south of the railway for $9 per acre."

1890 – March 3 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 1 , col. 3 – Major Bell sells off a portion of the Bell Farm

> "**LATEST FROM THE CAPITAL** - The Bell Farm. W.R. Bell, of the celebrated Bell farm at Indian Head, who is here, has recently sold that portion of the farm south of the C.P.R. tracts at $9 per acre. He is now negotiating with an English capitalist for the sale of the remainder of the farm, including the homestead, at a price considerably over $20 per acre."

1890 - March 6 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 1 – Part of Bell Farm sold

> "**THE BELL FARM SOLD.** Ottawa, March 2 – Major Bell of the Indian Head farm, who is here, says that he has sold the farm south of the track for $9 per acre and is now negotiating for that north of the track with an English company for $21 per acre."

1890 – March 6 – *Brandon Mail* – p. 4 – Bell Farm Report during sale of lands - Mill & Elevator; Osment started as Bell Farm contractor

- [difficult to read article – get a better copy – includes reference to Osment coming west to be the contractor for the Bell Farm, and benefits of the Bell Farm to the Indian Head region] – check for details, get better copy

considerable importance in the near future.

INDIAN HEAD.

This town is noted for being the seat of the celebrated Bell Farm, which happily for the country and the town is going into dissolution. It is a question in any event whether [such] large farming can be made to pay in the country, there being so much hiring, and so many other objections. Certain it is, however, they are always an injury to the town in their

20 kb

vicinity, as the management [import] wholesale, and therefore, absorb, much of the business that is tributary. Originally in 1882, the farm consisted of [illegible] acres, with Major Bell as Manager. It extended about 10 miles wide, and 19 or 20 from north to south. On the reverse setting in a couple of years since, the Church of England Colony purchased a portion to the east, from the Mortgage Company who control it, the government experimental farm, which is located here and doing good business under Mr. McKay, took another section, sales were again made to private parties, and now Lord Brassey has made a purchase of 26,000 acres, at $9.00 an acre, and is placing the management under Dr. Fonnar. As nearly as can be learned it is the intention of the Brassey Co., to utilize the large hotel on the farm, as a training school after the manner of the Guelph (Ont.) model farm, which in connection with the Experimental Farm at the place, ought to be of considerable service to the place and the country. It is, however, supposed this 26,000 acre block will be drained into reasonably sized farms, and farmed in that way.

The organization of the Bell Farm has not, however been without its advantages to the place. It has left a 150 bbl roller process flouring mill with an elevator capacity of 50,000 bushels. McMillan and Bro., also have an elevator of 25 000 bushels capacity of the place.

The town has a fine agricultural society of 150 members of which Mr. D. Maclean is a leading spirit. He also handles Harris & Co.'s, implements, and being ready and active is a general convenience, to all the institutions of the place.

R. Lee, an old Londoner, is a harness maker in the place, carrying all the requirements of the locality.

W. Lee, a butcher and cattle dealer, has been many years in the place, and does not regret his selection.

Joseph Glenn homesteaded here in 1882 but in 1885 opened in the livery, feed and sale business and is doing a fine trade.

Jas. Thompson, homesteaded in the early days of the place, but now keeps a boarding house.

R. Crawford is a general merchant and post master, having several land agencies.

G. P. Murray is also a general dealer.

A. J. Asment came to the place in its earliest days, intending to be the contractor for the Bell farm buildings, but shortly after commenced as a general dealer. He has now one of the finest general stocks in the country, carrying as the public say, everything from a needle to an anchor—groceries, dry-goods crockery, clothing, hardware, tinware, lumber, furniture, etc. etc. He is depositor for the Bible Society. He has a fine trade, and a well fitted up store and residence, heated by hot air, and having hard and soft water on the premises. The confining business does not agree with him, and he therefore offers a fine business opening to an enterprising man with a moderate capital.

W. R. Boyd is proprietor and manager of the Commercial Hotel. He put it up in 1883. It has 14 bed rooms, bar, billiard and sample rooms, and is comfortably equipped and kept. Has a large stable in connection.

The place has two blacksmith shops, two carpenters, a skating rink 40x110, affording considerable amusement to the young. It has a medical man, Dr Hunt, who has a wild field for his territory Mr Guthrie is the school teacher, and has charge of 40 pupils a Masonic lodge of 30 members; an agricultural society of 100 members. Both of these societies hold their meetings in the new municipal hall 30x60 just erected. The Presbyterians are the only denomination who hold services and as a consequence their congregation is very strong.

The town is in the centre of a country municipality about 18x42 miles in proportion, and as a whole the taxes in this do not exceed $2.50 on a quarter section a year, to cover school and other expenditures. This is a strong contrast with the $40 to $60 tax of Dakota, across the lines. As the Bell farm is being sold at $9 an acre, this very nearly fixes the price of land in the vicinity.

To show the crops of this section have not been bad this year, we may say there were 45,000 bushels of wheat exported last season, and there is still some in reserve. Some of the crop was not good, but 30 bushels per acre was a common thing, and one McCallum had 35 bushels per acre off his entire farm. With the Bell farm divided into small lots, the country around is certain to grow and prosper, and with it the town itself.

RELIEF FOR THE CROFTERS.

66 kb

66 kb

1890 – March 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1

> "Indian Head . . . Major Bell of the Indian Head farm, who is in Ottawa, says that he has sold the farm south of the tracks for $9 per acre, and is now negotiating for that north of the track with an English company for $21 an acre."

1890 - March 11 – *Regina Leader* p. 1 – Brassey operations on former Bell Farm lands

> "**INDIAN HEAD. Operations of the Brassey Company – Indian Head Wheat**. Indian Head. March 10. The manager of the Brassey Company (who have bought a large tract of land from the Bell Farming Co.) was in town this week and states that the company will begin active operations this spring. In May fifty families from the Old Country will be located on the land. A number of teams and cattle have been bought and will be here this spring. Building operations will be on an extensive scale."

1890 - March 11 – *Regina Leader* , p. 8 – Bell plans to sell more farm land

> "Major Bell, of the Bell farm at Indian Head, has recently sold that portion of the farm south of the C.P.R. track at $9 per acre. He is now negotiating with an English capitalist for the sale of the remainder of the farm, including the homestead, at a price considerably over $20 per acre."

1890 – March 12 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 5 – Sale of Bell Farm lands and Hotel to Brassey

> "INDIAN HEAD ITEMS . . . . . The future of out little town is brightening. The manager of the Massey [sic – should be Brassey] company was in town this week. He states that early in May about fifty families will be located on the land bought by that company from the Bell Farming company. A number of teams and cattle are bought and will be here early in the spring. The headquarters of the company will be in the "brick" hotel, late in the possession of the Bell Farming company. Extensive building operations will be begun as soon as the weather opens."

1890 – March 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 6 – Bell elected 2nd V.P. of Manitoba Rifle Association

MANITOBA RIFLE CONVENTION.

Officers and Council Elected at the Annual Meeting Last Night.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Rifle Association was held in Trinity Hall Tuesday evening and was largely attended, there being over one hundred members present.

The financial statement for 1889 was presented. It showed a small balance to the credit of the association after paying all the expenses incurred during the year, as well as liquidating a deficit of $250 from 1888.

The following patrons and officers were elected for the current year:—

Patron—Sir Donald A. Smith.

Vice-patrons—Hon. Mr. Greenway, Mr. Jos. Wrigley and Mr. Wm. Whyte.

President—Col. Villiers, D. A. G,

Vice presidents—Col. Boswell, 90th Rifles, 1st; Major Bell, Indian Head, 2nd.

Council—Lt.-Col. Herchmer, N. W. M. P., Regina; Capt. Wastie, 91st Batt., Brandon; Capt. Rutledge, 91st Batt., Virden; Capt. Waugh, 95th Batt., Morden; Capt. Sheppard, 91st Batt., P. la P.; Capt. Howden, 90th; Capt. Doidge, W.F.B.; Lieut. Schneider, W. T.C.; Lieut. Benedict, 90th; Lieut. McLaren, 90th; Capt. Bruce 95th.

A vote of thanks was tendered the retiring officers and council.

132 kb

1890 – March 22 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p.3 – Bell sells part of Farm south of CPR

"W.R. Bell, of the celebrated Bell farm at Indian Head, has recently sold that portion of the farm south of the C.P.R. tracks at $9 per acre. He is now negotiating with an English capitalist for the sale of the remainder of the farm, including the homestead, at a price considerably over $20 per acre."

1890 - March 24 - *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 - A Blue Blooded Horse

"Major Bell of Indian Head, who has just returned from Great Britain, has brought with him the thoroughbred stallion Ovington in whose veins courses the best racing blood of England. The horse is from Blush Rose, the winner of the Royal Oaks, by Speculum, winner of the Derby. The famous horse Horizon is the sire. Ovington's colour is pure black. While at Toronto for a few days the animal was greatly admired by horsemen and it is said that it has not an equal on the American continent. Mr. Bell does not intend to put Ovington on the track but will keep him on his farm for breeding purposes. Mr. Bell will pass through Winnipeg in a couple of days on the way to Indian Head."

BLUSH ROSE,

Bred by Mr A. YOUNG, in 1877, got by Speculum, her dam, Hedge Rose, by Neptunus, out of Woodbine, by Stockwell.

1884	b. f. *Light and Shade*, by Horizon (sent to Germany) -	Mr R. Lumley
1885	bl. c. *Ovington*, by ditto - -	
1886	b. f. *Maud Mary*, by ditto - - -	
1887	not covered last year - - -	
1888	ch. f. by Blue Grass - - -	
1889	by ditto - - - -	

Source for Blush Rose table: *The General Stud Book Containing Pedigrees of Race Horses from the earliest Accounts to the Year 1888 inclusive*

1890 – March 25 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 3 – Sale of Bell Farm to Brassey

"W.R. Bell, of the celebrated Bell farm at Indian Head, has recently sold that portion of the farm south of the C.P.R. track at $9 per acre. He is now negotiating with an English capitalist for the sale of the remainder of the farm, including the homestead, at a price considerably over $20 per acre."

1890 – April 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1

"Indian Head . . . Major Bell has purchased ten Superior press seeder drills through Mr. Jos. Glenn, Massey's agent here."

And:

"Carpenters are at work on the big brick hotel preparing it for the Brassey Co's men, who are expected to arrive shortly."

1890 – April 16 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Major Bell heading south from Winnipeg

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, was a passenger on the CPR south train this morning."

1890 – April 22 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 – Death of Major Bell's mother in Brockville

"**THE REPORTORIAL ROUND** – Rev. E. Robson received a telegram last evening, informing him, of the sudden death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Robert Bell, of Brockville, Ont. The deceased lady was a daughter of the late Mr. Adiel Sherwood, for 25 years sheriff of the united counties of Leeds and Grenville. She died at the ripe age of 84 years 10 months, having enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew her, and the warmest affection of her immediate friends and relatives. Among her children are Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, and Mrs. Robson, of this city. – Vancouver World, April 17."

1890 – May 9 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"Indian Head . . . Between 60 and 70 persons have arrived from England, under the auspices of the C.C.&C. Co (Brassey's Canadian Cooperative Colonization Company), who have purchased a large quantity of land from the Bell farm. Farming operations will be begun on a large scale at once. Two cars of working oxen came up this week, and 16 teams of horses are expected in the course of a few days."

1890 – June 3 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 - Bell President of Liberal-Conservative Association

INDIAN HEAD.

Liberal-Conservative Meeting.—Mr. Davidson M.L.A. Addresses His Constituents.

INDIAN HEAD, May 31.—The annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association was held this afternoon in the Commercial Hotel. A. McKay, President, in the chair.

After the adoption of the minutes of last meeting, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year

W. R. Bell, President ;
R. Crawford, 1st Vice President ;
A. McKay, 2nd Vice President ;
A. W. Sherwood, Sec'y-Treas.

Messrs. J. Bunnell, Boyd, Conn, W. Johnson, Fishleigh, Mooney, J. Ewart, W. Kirkland, Braithwaite, J. McDonald, J. Beech, T. Donnelly, T. Jackson, H. Bonnycastle, Skinner, W. Stephens, J. Sample, P. Dayman, R. Todd, D. Railton, E. Boone, J. Harvey, W. Douglas, were appointed directors

Resolutions were carried as follows :—

"That the expenses of the Association be raised by voluntary subscription ;"

"That the officers of the Association be a committee to draft a set of rules for the order of business meetings ;"

"That W. R. Bell, R. Crawford, W. R. Boyd and W. Johnson be delegates to attend the annual meeting of the Central Association at Broadview.

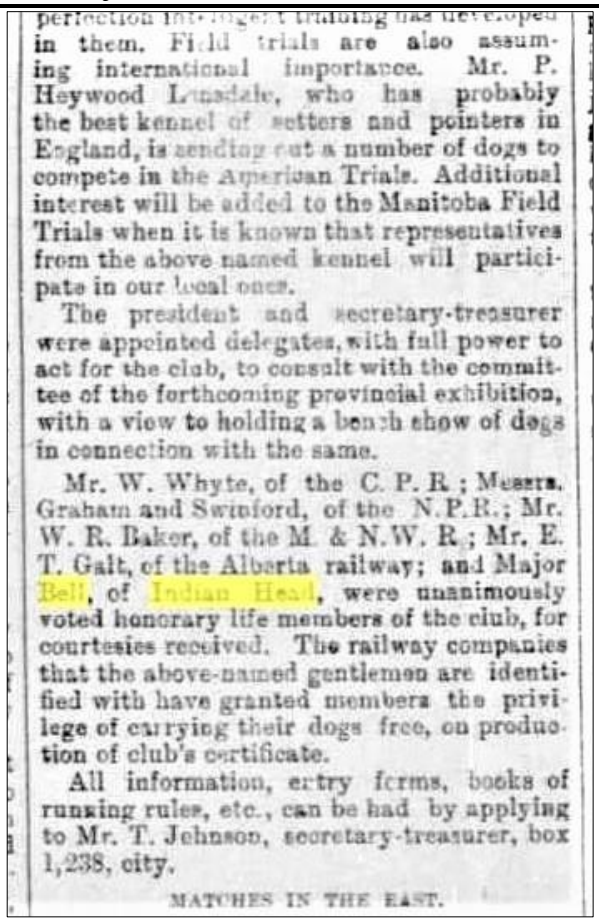
1890 – June 5 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ (– check for details

[Indian Head, Annual meeting of Liberal-Conservative Association held. WR Bell president.]

1890 – June 6 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 1

"Indian Head . . The annual meeting of the Liberal Conservative Association was held in the Commercial Hotel, Saturday afternood (sic) A. McKay, president, in the chair . . . the following gentlemen were appointed officers for the ensuing year. W.R. Bell, pres; R. Crawford, 1st vice president; A.M. McKay, 2nd vice president; A.W. Sherwood, secretary-treasurer . . . W.R. Bell, R. Crawford and W. Thompson be delegates to attend the annual meeting of the central association in Broadview."

1890 – June 9 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 2 – Major Bell appointed Life Member of Manitoba Field Trials Club (dog competitions)



perfection intelligent training has developed in them. Field trials are also assuming international importance. Mr. P. Heywood Lonsdale, who has probably the best kennel of setters and pointers in England, is sending out a number of dogs to compete in the American Trials. Additional interest will be added to the Manitoba Field Trials when it is known that representatives from the above named kennel will participate in our local ones.

The president and secretary-treasurer were appointed delegates, with full power to act for the club, to consult with the committee of the forthcoming provincial exhibition, with a view to holding a bench show of dogs in connection with the same.

Mr. W. Whyte, of the C. P. R.; Messrs. Graham and Swinford, of the N.P.R.; Mr. W. R. Baker, of the M. & N.W. R.; Mr. E. T. Galt, of the Alberta railway; and Major Bell, of Indian Head, were unanimously voted honorary life members of the club, for courtesies received. The railway companies that the above-named gentlemen are identified with have granted members the privilege of carrying their dogs free, on production of club's certificate.

All information, entry forms, books of running rules, etc., can be had by applying to Mr. T. Johnson, secretary-treasurer, box 1,238, city.

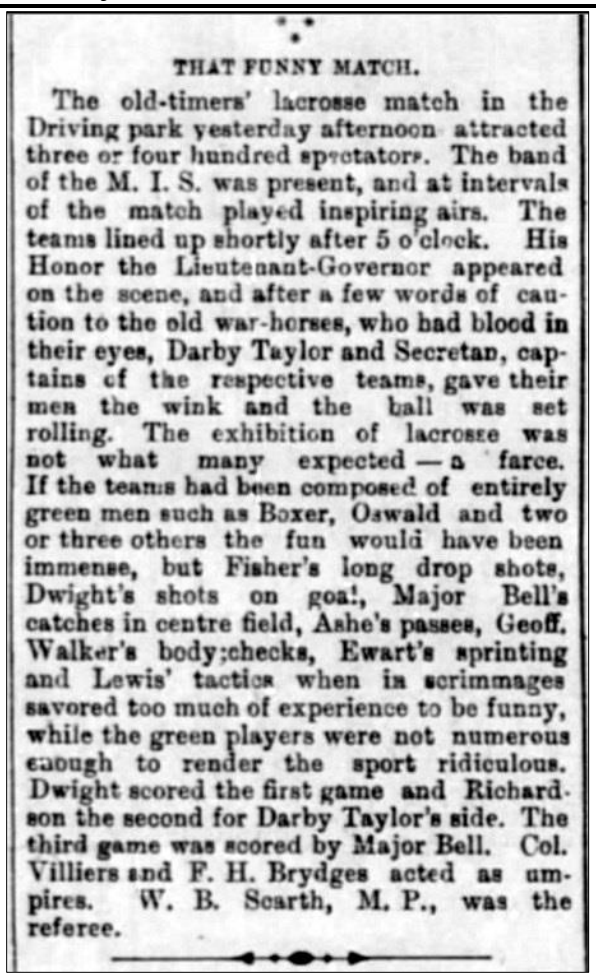
MATCHES IN THE EAST.

109 kb

1890 – June 21 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune* - List of people "registered with the Manitoba government" – whatever that meant in 1890. It includes Major Bell near the bottom of the listing.

"The following registered recently at the office of the Manitoba government, 30 York Street, Toronto: Henry Dunlop . . . . . W.R. Bell, Bell Farm, David Cautelon . . . . ."

1890 - June 21 *Winnipeg Tribune* - Secretan and Major Bell participate in Lacrosse



THAT FUNNY MATCH.

The old-timers' lacrosse match in the Driving park yesterday afternoon attracted three or four hundred spectators. The band of the M. I. S. was present, and at intervals of the match played inspiring airs. The teams lined up shortly after 5 o'clock. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor appeared on the scene, and after a few words of caution to the old war-horses, who had blood in their eyes, Darby Taylor and Secretan, captains of the respective teams, gave their men the wink and the ball was set rolling. The exhibition of lacrosse was not what many expected — a farce. If the teams had been composed of entirely green men such as Boxer, Oswald and two or three others the fun would have been immense, but Fisher's long drop shots, Dwight's shots on goal, Major Bell's catches in centre field, Ashe's passes, Geoff. Walker's body checks, Ewart's sprinting and Lewis' tactics when in scrimmages savored too much of experience to be funny, while the green players were not numerous enough to render the sport ridiculous. Dwight scored the first game and Richardson the second for Darby Taylor's side. The third game was scored by Major Bell. Col. Villiers and F. H. Brydges acted as umpires. W. B. Scarth, M. P., was the referee.

126kb

1890 – June 21 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Bell, Secretan and other play lacrosse in Winnipeg

FAIR, BUT NOT FUNNY.

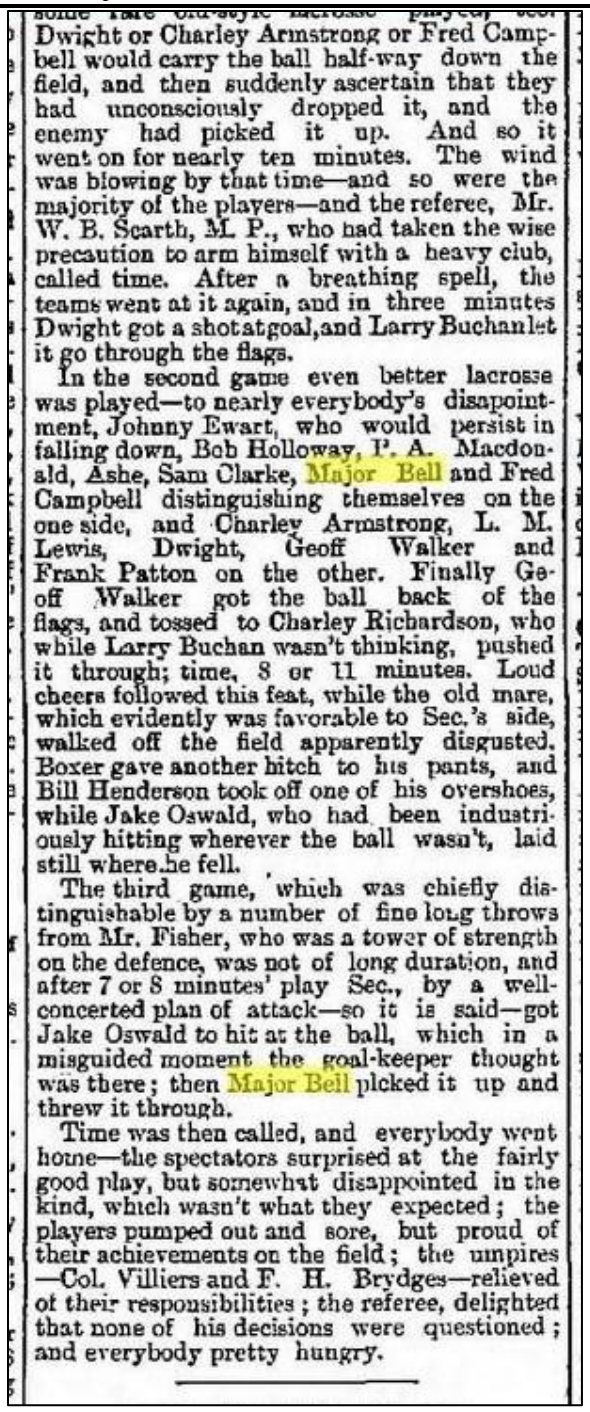
The Old Timers' Lacrosse Match Not to be Laughed at.

For some unaccountable reason those who attended the lacrosse match yesterday afternoon at the Cricket club's grounds expected they would evolve out of the game any amount of fun; for very apparent reasons they were sorely disappointed. The principal one was that there was nothing particularly funny to laugh at. It is true the old timers who participated in the game were supposed to be relics of bye-gone days and that the majority being out of practice and having gained considerable averdupois, the way they would amble around the field and run up against and pummel each other, and perspire, and yell, would be very exhilarating and amusing. But it wasn't. On the contrary, the majority of the players showed themselves very fair handlers of the stick, and instead of eliciting derisive jeers or roars of laughter at their awkwardness, received a goodly share of applause. People came to laugh; they remained almost to admire—especially Boxer's picturesque pants, which, with an old bay mare and a dog with a penchant for catching the ball, were amongst the principal features of the game. There was, of course, a very good attendance, for not only was there the curiosity to see how some of the alleged antediluvians would disport themselves, but the additional incentive of aiding two worthy institutions—the children's home and the hospital—each of which, it is gratifying to learn, will be benefited to the extent of $10

Part 1 of 3 108 kb

as a result of the afternoon's play. The band of the Military School was present and discoursed some pretty music during the intervals of the match. After it had played "Annie Laurie," the two teams, captained respectively by Mr. Secretan and Mr. Darby Taylor, lined up. Both teams were in uniform—one wearing striped shirts and the other flesh-colored ones—Major Bell and one or two others appearing in spotless white, emblematic of their rural innocence and purity. On Capt. Secretan's side were, Major Buchan, (goal), E. Jarvis, Fred. Ashe, P. A. Macdonald, Jake Oswald, Major Bell, Fred. Campbell, Tom Anderson. John S. Ewart, Sam. P. Clarke and Frank Morrice; and Capt. Taylor had under his command: W. F. Henderson, (goal,) Charley Armstrong, W.H. Fisher, John McLaren, L. M. Lewis, W. S. Kirby, L. Dwight, S. Ogilvie, C. A. Boxer, Frank Patton, Geoff. Walker and Charley Richardson. Both captains were dressed alike—Darby being easily distinguishable from Sec. by his carrying a little cane. There was some delay occasioned by the captains vainly trying to borrow a quarter to toss up with, and it was not till 5.15 that the Lieutenant-Governor fearlessly opened the game by throwing the ball recklessly amongst the players. Major Bell got hold of it, and started for the goal which is controlled by Governor Lawler, instead of the goal which W. F. Henderson was valorously waiting to vigorously defend. In a minute or two, it was apparent to the spectators that the game was not what they expected it would be, and as the play proceeded this was further painfully demonstrated. Fair to middling lacrosse was played—not particularly brilliant, it is true, but still not bad enough to tickle anybody's risibilities. There was some rare old-style lacrosse played, too.

Part 2 of 3 118 kb



some rare old-style lacrosse played, [illegible] Dwight or Charley Armstrong or Fred Campbell would carry the ball half-way down the field, and then suddenly ascertain that they had unconsciously dropped it, and the enemy had picked it up. And so it went on for nearly ten minutes. The wind was blowing by that time—and so were the majority of the players—and the referee, Mr. W. B. Scarth, M. P., who had taken the wise precaution to arm himself with a heavy club, called time. After a breathing spell, the teams went at it again, and in three minutes Dwight got a shot at goal, and Larry Buchan let it go through the flags.

In the second game even better lacrosse was played—to nearly everybody's disapointment, Johnny Ewart, who would persist in falling down, Bob Holloway, P. A. Macdonald, Ashe, Sam Clarke, Major Bell and Fred Campbell distinguishing themselves on the one side, and Charley Armstrong, L. M. Lewis, Dwight, Geoff Walker and Frank Patton on the other. Finally Geoff Walker got the ball back of the flags, and tossed to Charley Richardson, who while Larry Buchan wasn't thinking, pushed it through; time, 8 or 11 minutes. Loud cheers followed this feat, while the old mare, which evidently was favorable to Sec.'s side, walked off the field apparently disgusted. Boxer gave another hitch to his pants, and Bill Henderson took off one of his overshoes, while Jake Oswald, who had been industriously hitting wherever the ball wasn't, laid still where he fell.

The third game, which was chiefly distinguishable by a number of fine long throws from Mr. Fisher, who was a tower of strength on the defence, was not of long duration, and after 7 or 8 minutes' play Sec., by a well-concerted plan of attack—so it is said—got Jake Oswald to hit at the ball, which in a misguided moment the goal-keeper thought was there; then Major Bell picked it up and threw it through.

Time was then called, and everybody went home—the spectators surprised at the fairly good play, but somewhat disappointed in the kind, which wasn't what they expected; the players pumped out and sore, but proud of their achievements on the field; the umpires—Col. Villiers and F. H. Brydges—relieved of their responsibilities; the referee, delighted that none of his decisions were questioned; and everybody pretty hungry.

Part 3 of 3 154 kb

1890 – June – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
279	June 25, 1890	Geo. W. Burbidge	Ottawa	Ontario
280	"	??? Audette	"	Ontario

1890 – July 26 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 2 – winner of the Bell Cup -Staff Sgt. Inman

1890 – July 23 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Mention of Bell Cup

> "The ranges will be open to-day, when the Logan, the Association and the Bell Cup matches will be shot off. On Thursday the ladies match, the battalion match and the skirmishing match will be shot off, which will close the meeting."

1890 – July 25 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Winner of the Bell Cup to be decided today

> " The Bell competition, the last on the programme, took place this evening."

1890 – July 26 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 2 – Inman winner of the Bell Cup

championship series. The intermediate champions are at present the Winnipeg Juniors.

AT THE RANGES.

Yesterday saw the last shot fired at the M. R. A. matches. The Bell competition was the last rifle match on the programme. Staff-Sergt. Inman made the highest score, and wins the Bell Cup for one year. The following is the score:

	Score.	Prize.
Staff-Sgt. Inman, 90th	53	$10
Staff-Sgt. McKay, 90th	52	7
Pte. Tait, 9th	47	5
Sgt. Garbott, R.S.M.I.	44	5
Staff-Sgt. Clark, 95th	43	4

The result of the revolver match is as follows:

	Score.	Prize
1. Sgt. Clark	30	$7
2. Sgt. Inman	30	6
3. Pte. Gillies.	29	5
4. Sgt. Garbett	29	4
5. Sgt. Koss	28	4
6. Pte. Macklin	26	3
7. Pte. Mitchell	25	3
8. Dr. Sutherland	22	2
9. Col. Bedson	19	2
10. Capt. Harris	18	2

The eight highest in the grand aggregate are Sgt. Macklin, 90th; Sgt. Clark, 95th; Sgt. Gillies, 91st; Pte. Costigan, 90th; W. M. Huston, 95th; Pte. McDermaid, 90th; Sgt. Graburn, 91st; Pte. Murray, 90th; and they will consequently represent Manitoba at Ottawa this year.

ST. PAUL RACES.

98 kb

1890 – Aug. 20 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. ___ - Bell Farm harvest begins, as report in 1910, p. 9

> "Twenty Years Ago . . . . . The Bell farm started cutting wheat on Saturday with twelve self biners. Major Bell expects 50,000 bushels of wheat."

1890 – Aug. 21 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. 2 – Harvest at Indian Head

> "Indian Head . . . The crop outlook was never so promising in the Indian Head section. Two hundred thousand bushels of wheat is the lowest estimate. Many think three hundred thousand will be harvested here. There will be nearly fifty thousand bushels of wheat on the Bell Farm alone. Major Bell started cutting on the 19th inst., with twelve binders. The demand

for binders has been immense. Harvesting has become general. The Experimental Farm is something worth seeing."

"Professor Tanner is in town and is staying at the Farmers' Home, the headquarters of the C.C.C. Co. "

1890 – Aug. 22 – *Montreal Gazette.* p. 1 – Reports of frost in the West are premature

"WINNIPEG: August 21. – Private dispatches from the east to-day give the first intimation that there was a severe frost in Manitoba last night. The facts are that so far the thermometer has only reached below the freezing point in two or three places in the province, and no damage has practically been sustained in Manitoba. The temperature is higher to-night than, for a week past at this hour. All stories about destruction to grain by frost emanate from speculators in wheat. Major Bell, at Indian Head, reports that his wheat yield will be 50,000 bushels."

1890 – Aug. 28 – *Action Free Press*, p. 6 – Bell Farm crop report – 50,000 bushels

"Major Bell, of the famous Indian Head Farm, will have 50,000 bushels of wheat"

1890 – Aug. 29 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Judge Bell hears strike complaint in court

The North-West – News Culled for the Progress by our own correspondents – INDIAN HEAD – On Monday morning last, seven men under contract with the Canadian Co-operative Co. Cp. Left the premises of the Co., and it is said went on strike. They simply took their personal belongings, and left the Co.'s service without notice and in violation of their contract. To this the manager, Mr. Sheppard, objected, and laid information against them for the desertion of employment. Six of them were arrested and brought before Major Bell on Tuesday. Four of them pleaded guilty and were fined $10 and costs. Two pleaded not guilty, and were fined $15 and costs, the six paying the court $114. When brought into court the reason assigned by the men for their action was that the character of the food supplied them was inferior, but this was proven to be false, that in fact the food supplied by the Co. was first-class. The seventh man was arrested at Portage la Prairie and is bring brought back for trial. The men are now thrown upon their own resources and are no doubt saddened and wiser for their experience. It is said that they were instigated in their action by listening too much to the vapid talk of *barroom loafers*.

1890 – Sept. 1 – *Sessional Papers* – 1891 – Vol. 15, No. 18, p. 18-42 – Indian Agent J.B. Lash's report on Indigenous workers on the Bell and Kaye Farms in 1889

"The Sioux (Standing Buffalo's Band) received assistance only during seeding and haying, supporting themselves the remainder of the year by their own exertions. These Indians are in great demand as farm hands during the harvest season. Last year I had applications for forty more than could be supplied; they were working principally on the bell Farm at Indian Head and the Kaye Farm at Balgonie."

1890 – Sept. 8 – Manitoba *Free Press*, p. 8 – Bell staying at Queen's Hotel, Winnipeg.

"**PEOPLE IN PARAGRAPHS**: . . . . Major Bell, of Indian Head, is a guest at the Queen's . . ."

1890 – September – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
281	Sept. 13, 1890	Henry F. Moore	*???* Mark Lane *???* London, Eng.	
282 a & b	Sept. 17, 1890	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Allen	Glasgow	Scotland
283	"	Miss Allen	"	"
284	"	Miss Janie Allen	"	"
285	"	Mr. Claud A. Allen	"	"

1890- Sept. 30 – *Regina Leader* , p. 1– Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association – Major Bell wins various matches

ASSA. PROV. RIFLE ASS'N.

Second Annual Meeting – A Successful Affair–The Prize Winners.

The second annual prize meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association began Wednesday Sept. 24th. The weather on all the days was delightful ; warm and clear. The wind on Wednesday was somewhat gusty from 9 o'clock to 11. The attendance from outside points was not as large as last year, but the interest was keen. The arrangements throughout were most complete, thanks to the committee, and especially to Mr. J. W. Jowett, the Hon. Secretary.

The proceedings were opened by Mrs. D. Mowat firing the first shot, with the result of a bull's eye.

The first match on the list was the "Nursery," seven shots at 200 yards. The following are the prize winners :

THE NURSERY MATCH.

1.	Silver Medal	S. Vaider	30
2.	$5.00	A. E. Forget	30
3.	4.00	O. Walsh	28
4.	3.00	E. B. Read	28
5.	3.00	John Carson	27
6.	2.00	J. T. Stemshorn	27
7.	2.00	S. S. Phillips	27
8.	1.00	J. H. Willoughby	26
9.	1.00	J. W. Jowett	25
10.	1.00	Geo. Jackson	23
11.	1.00	G. Smales	14

THE LADIES MATCH.

1.	Major D. Mowat for Mrs. McKay	34
2.	R. J. Steel for Mrs. W. H. Hunt	31
3.	F. Nash for Miss Hamilton	31
4.	L. Abbey for Mrs. Abbey	30
5.	H. A. Carruthers for Mrs. Carruthers	30
6.	Major Mowat for Mrs. D. Mowat	30
7.	R. J. Steel for Miss A. Lock	30
8.	Capt. Harris for Mrs. Harris	30
9.	R. Sweet for Miss Sweet	29
10.	W. Laurie for Mrs. Forget	27

THE MOWAT MATCH.

63 kb

THE MOWAT MATCH.

7 shots each at 200, 500, 600 yds.

1.	Major W. R. Bell	29	27	23—79
2.	L. Abbey	31	20	21—72
3.	A. E. Forget	28	24	19—71
4.	H. A. Carruthers	27	24	17—68
5.	Major Mowat	33	23	12—68
6.	R. Sweet	34	23	8—65
7.	R. J. Steel	30	12	22—64
8.	W. Williamson	29	19	16—64
9.	W. Laurie	29	21	14—64
10.	F. Nash	25	18	19—62
11.	Captain Harris	25	24	11—60
12.	J. W. Jowett	32	12	15—59

Extra Series Match. 200 Yards. Three shots

1.	R. J. Steel	15
2.	Major Mowat	15
3.	E. B. Read	15

Extra Series Match. 400 Yards. Three shots.

1.	Major Mowat	14
2.	W. Williamson	14
3.	Captain Harris	14

Extra Series Match. 500 Yards. Three shots.

1.	Major Bell	13
2.	E. A. Griffiths	13
3.	J. W. Jowett	13

Extra Series Match. 600 Yards. Three shots.

1.	John Carson	10
2.	L. Abbey	9
3.	R. J. Steel	9

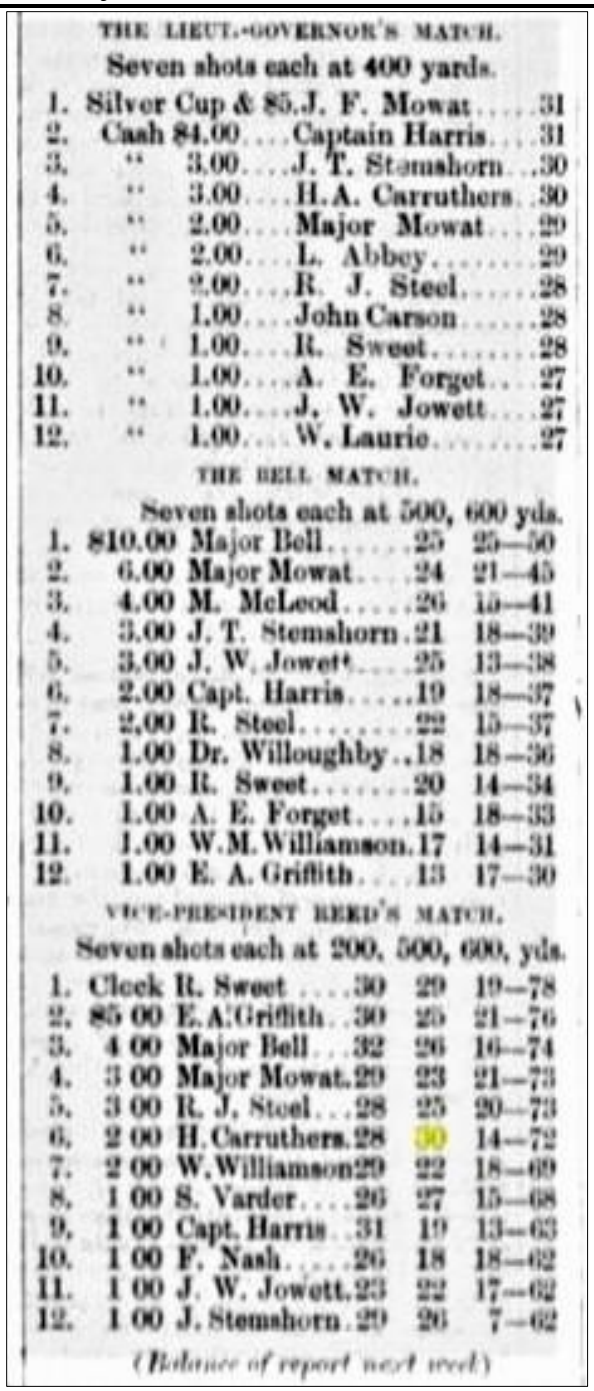
SECOND DAY

The matches were resumed on Thursday morning with magnificently fine weather, a gentle breeze blowing from 2 o'clock.

The result of Thursday's shooting is as follows :

THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S MATCH.

49 kb



THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S MATCH.

Seven shots each at 400 yards.

1.	Silver Cup & $5.	J. F. Mowat		31
2.	Cash $4.00	Captain Harris		31
3.	" 3.00	J. T. Stemshorn		30
4.	" 3.00	H. A. Carruthers		30
5.	" 2.00	Major Mowat		29
6.	" 2.00	L. Abbey		29
7.	" 2.00	R. J. Steel		28
8.	" 1.00	John Carson		28
9.	" 1.00	R. Sweet		28
10.	" 1.00	A. E. Forget		27
11.	" 1.00	J. W. Jowett		27
12.	" 1.00	W. Laurie		27

THE BELL MATCH.

Seven shots each at 500, 600 yds.

1.	$10.00	Major Bell	25	25	50
2.	6.00	Major Mowat	24	21	45
3.	4.00	M. McLeod	26	15	41
4.	3.00	J. T. Stemshorn	21	18	39
5.	3.00	J. W. Jowett	25	13	38
6.	2.00	Capt. Harris	19	18	37
7.	2.00	R. Steel	22	15	37
8.	1.00	Dr. Willoughby	18	18	36
9.	1.00	R. Sweet	20	14	34
10.	1.00	A. E. Forget	15	18	33
11.	1.00	W. M. Williamson	17	14	31
12.	1.00	E. A. Griffith	13	17	30

VICE-PRESIDENT REED'S MATCH.

Seven shots each at 200, 500, 600, yds.

1.	Clock	R. Sweet	30	29	19	78
2.	$5 00	E. A. Griffith	30	25	21	76
3.	4 00	Major Bell	32	26	16	74
4.	3 00	Major Mowat	29	23	21	73
5.	3 00	R. J. Steel	28	25	20	73
6.	2 00	H. Carruthers	28	30	14	72
7.	2 00	W. Williamson	29	22	18	69
8.	1 00	S. Varder	26	27	15	68
9.	1 00	Capt. Harris	31	19	13	63
10.	1 00	F. Nash	26	18	18	62
11.	1 00	J. W. Jowett	23	22	17	62
12.	1 00	J. Stemshorn	29	26	7	62

(Balance of report next week)

99 kb

1890 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
286	Oct. 3, 1890	John Speir	Newton, Glasgow	Scotland - John Speir, an agricultural authority and founder of milk-recording in Scotland, visited the Bell Farm as a member of the 1890 tenant-farmer delegation.
287	"	Pierre Foursin	Paris	France – invited to join the Tenant-Farmer Delegates by the Canadian High Commissioner to France
288	"	John T. Wood	Halwood, Lancashire	England - A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.

289	"	Geo. Brown	Walter Caithness, Scotland	A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
290	"	Wm. Scotson	Moberley Hill Lpool	England - A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
291	"	Major Stevenson	N.I. Delegate, London	Northern Ireland - A member of the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
292	"	Primrose McConnell	Ongar, Essex	England - A tenant-farmer invited to join the Tenant-Farm Delegation from Great Britain.
293	"	Geo. H. Campbell	*Winnipeg*	Manitoba George Huestis Campbell (b. 1858) was at one time a Ticket Agent and later the General Immigration Manager of the C.P.R. in Winnipeg. He visited the Bell Farm on October 3, 1890, as a guide to the Tenant-Farmer Delegates. A year later he became a primary investor and the General Manager of the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Company
294	Oct. 8, 1890	E. Robson	New Westminster, B.C.	Rev. Ebenezer and Mrs. Ellen M. Robson, stationed primarily in British Columbia, where Rev. Robson served as a Methodist minister
295	"	Ellen M. Robson	"	Wife of Ebenezer Robson, and half sister of Major bell
296	"	John H. Bell	Brockville, Ont.	

1890 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
1701	D 02	SCNWT 43/90	Brine McDonald Vs. W.H. Bell	1890	Is "H" a typo for "R", or is W.H. bell another person? (also files 1753, 1755, 1838)
1741	K 02	SCNWT 83/90	A.J. Osment Vs. T. Marston	1889-1890	
1745	L 02	SCNWT 87/90	A.J. Osment Vs. Canadian Co-operative Colonization Co.	1890-1891	CCCC was part of the Brassey Farm operation

1890 – Oct. 3 – *Sessional Paper* – 1891, Vol. 4, No 6, p. 6-104 Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from G.H. Campbell

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS WITH BRITISH FARM DELEGATES IN MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST.

(Mr. G. H. Campbell.)

Ottawa, 25th December, 1890.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit herewith a report of my trip through Canada in company with the British Farmer Delegates as follows:—

At your request I left Winnipeg on 7th September, and came to Ottawa where I met delegates, Messrs. Wood, Simmons, Scotson and Pitt on the 15th, and in company with yourself we all left same night for Toronto to attend the Industrial Exhibition at that place.

On arrival there we were joined by delegates Messrs. Spiers, Brown, Murphy, Edwards, Daniels, Hutchinson and Col. Fane, who had arrived there in advance of the others, and were in charge of Mr. Small, secretary of your Department. The next day Major Stevenson arrived, thus completing the party of thirteen in all. The following are the names and addresses of the party:—

John T. Wood, Halewood, Lancashire, England.
Wm. Scotson, Mosley Hill, Liverpool do
H. Simmons, Reading, London do
R. Pitt, Ilminster, Somersetshire do
Geo. Daniels, Norfolk do
Geo. Hutchinson, Penrith, Cumberland do
Col. F. Fane, Fulbeck, Lincolnshire do
Wm. Edwards, Ruthvin, Wales
John Spier, Newton, Glasgow, Scotland.
Geo. Brown, Caithness do
Major D. W. Stevenson, Londonderry, Ireland.
E. R. Murphy, Tralee do
P. Foursin, Paris, France.

After spending two days at the Exhibition at Toronto, we left for Winnipeg in the private sleeping car "Gatineau," in charge of porter Sam. Gray, kindly placed at our disposal by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England (1891 report to Gov. of Canada, Dept of Agriculture – by George Brown, p. 33) – Bell Farm, although greatly reduced, is still very large, and has a 27 mile circumference. Also reference to the Brassey Farm, which was carved out of the original Bell Farm.

Our next stop is at Regina, the capital of the North-West, visiting Indian Head on our way. Here is situated the North-West Experimental Farm, as also the famous Bell and Brassey Farms. The Bell Farm is a big undertaking—much too big for one man to carry out the work with economy. It is 13,000 acres in extent, and takes a ride of 27 miles to go round it. There are 1,600 acres under wheat this year, and Major Bell expects to put in 3,000 acres next year. The produce is about 25 bushels per acre, and the cost of production from $4 to $5 per acre. There is frequently 40 per cent. lost by frost, which might be saved to a considerable extent if the farm was divided into holdings of one-twentieth the size. One furrow outwards and another homewards is the half-day's work for a man and pair of horses. The climate is unsuitable; that is, it is too big a risk to have a grain farm pure and simple so far west and north, although mixed farming would leave money.

The Brassey Farm has just been started, and consists of 40,000 acres. A commencement has been made by establishing a fair lot of Clydesdale mares, the intention being to breed horses of greater bone and substance, which will soon be required for farm purposes. There is also a fair herd of cattle. The land is fair. Grain-growing is also to be taken up as time goes on.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from Arthur Daniel, p. 13, and 18-19

THE REPORT OF MR. ARTHUR DANIEL,

172, Dereham Road, Norwich.

HAVING been chosen by Sir C. Tupper as one of the farmer delegates to visit Canada for the purpose of ascertaining the resources of the country and its suitability for emigrants, I have to report that I left Liverpool on the 28th of August, in the Allan steamship "Circassian," and arrived in Montreal on the 8th of September.

As this Report will doubtless be read by many who have no idea of the extent of the Dominion of Canada, I will briefly describe the extent of our journey. From Montreal we travelled to Ottawa and Toronto, where we were met by Mr. G. H. Campbell, who acted as pilot for the remainder of the journey.

Having had a special railway car placed at our service, our pilot gave the word of command, "All aboard," and we started for the Great North-West. After having travelled some 700 miles, and when near Thunder Bay—remarkable for its grand scenery—we experienced one of the many slight railway accidents so often heard of in the New World; but luckily for us, it proved to be comparatively harmless, for, with the exception of the engine leaving the track, and the five hours' delay, no one in the train suffered further inconvenience than having one's breakfast emptied into one's lap. Then we proceeded on our way to Winnipeg, Carman, Glenborough, Souris, Brandon, Rapid City, Minnedosa, Saltcoats, Portage-la-Prairie, Regina, Prince Albert, Calgary, Banff, New Westminster, Vancouver, and Victoria. Thence we retraced our steps to Old England, where I arrived on the 22nd of November, having travelled 16,000 miles by water and rail, and 1,000 by road.

p. 13 (above) G.H Campbell as Delegate Tour Guide from Toronto westward.

Thence we went to Indian Head, where is situated the famous Bell Farm, which, like most other great speculations in farming and ranching, appears to be a failure, though from what cause it is difficult to say. We were told by some that it is owing to mismanagement, and

from what I saw I quite believe that a great deal may be attributed to this cause. Moreover, we heard of absurd things being practised on one of these large farms further west, such as buying 40 new water-carts for the purpose of watering the crops when the sun was 90 degrees in the shade. It is said that the season in 1889 being dry, this was tried as an experiment. We here obtained information that the chief of the land adjoining the railway from Virden to Broadview is held by speculators. This will prove a serious drawback to settlement; for, like Winnipeg, these places are at a standstill, as the new settlers are obliged to take up land a long way from the rail. But this will right itself, as all this unsold land is subject to taxation. At Regina we saw some very fine specimens of roots and potatoes, which were good all through the North-West. From Regina to Calgary the land appears to be of the same character. Prince Albert, to which the rail had been only just opened, is destined to become a rising place.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from Henry Simmons, p. 92-93

in a country where straw is not valued as a manure. We left Portage on Thursday evening, arriving at Indian Head on Friday morning, and having breakfasted at the Commercial Hotel, went at once over the Government Experimental Farm, carried on here under the management of Mr. Mackay exactly on the same lines as those already described at Ottawa and Brandon, and certainly with equal credit to him as regards skill. The land is of better quality, but the climate more backward. Here an excellent lunch was prepared for our party, and great hospitality shown to us by Mr. and Mrs. Mackay.

We then started to see the world-wide known Bell Farm, formerly consisting of 53,000 acres, but not proving a success, the land was sold, some 13,000 acres being purchased by the then manager, Major Bell, and the remainder by a colonisation society under Lord Brassey. A very heavy storm of rain and hail coming on, we could not do justice to Major Bell's farming, as, unfortunately for him, we entered on the side of his holding on which all his wheat was badly frosted, much standing uncut and horses and cattle feeding on it, and the other cut green and made into stacks for fodder. The storm was so heavy that we turned back, and did not see his finer and better wheats, of which he had grown 1,400 acres, and hoped next year to grow 3,000 acres and 200 acres of oats. We saw at his house, which with the buildings was remarkably good, some good samples of the corn grown this season. The Colonisation Society's Farm comprises 60 sections of 640 acres each, but as it was only started in May last little work has been done beyond the erection of a manager's house, buildings, and cottages. The idea is for English labourers to be assisted

to emigrate, work on the farm for a year, and then settle according to ability on portions of the land unbroken, payments being extended in easy instalments over several years. It will be interesting to see how this experiment answers. We saw some good English Shire horses, and noticed 500 Shorthorn cattle in one field. This neighbourhood is not equal to that we had just left, and as we rejoined our car at three o'clock in the afternoon and travelled towards Regina, we passed through prairie land of rather poor quality, little wood upon it, and very few settlers.

The cost of producing a crop of wheat from sowing to the delivery into the elevator is estimated throughout Manitoba at from 28s. to 30s. an acre.

We reached Regina, but made no stay there this time, going on a 250 miles journey by train to Prince Albert, arriving there on Sunday morning after a somewhat uninteresting travel through a flat prairie

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from George Hutchinson, p. 40

From Portage-la-Prairie we continued our journey westward, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific; the first halt being at Indian Head, in Assiniboia, 314 miles west of Winnipeg. Near Indian Head are situated the Bell Farm, the Farm of the Brassey Colonisation Company, and the Government Experimental Farm. We visited these farms, but as our inspection was made in an almost continuous downpour of rain, we could hardly do them justice. I noticed that some of the wheat on the Bell Farm had been much damaged by frost, and consequently was a very poor sample. The new railway from Regina northward having just been completed, we travelled over it as far as Prince Albert. Notwithstanding the deluge of rain from above, and the unlimited amount of mud below, the next day was spent in seeing the surrounding country. We were shown some very good samples of wheat and barley. The cattle also appeared to be healthy, in good condition, and more numerous than I expected to find them in a district which had, until recently, been so very remote from any railway communication. Prince Albert was the most northerly point reached during our tour in Canada. On our return to Regina we attended an exhibition of roots and vegetables, among which were some remarkably fine specimens. North of Regina there are two or three small stock ranches.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from Major Stevenson, p. 28

representative of those I saw. All were contented. At Indian Head, I visited the experimental farm, and was shown every attention by Mr. Mackay. This farm will prove of great benefit to the agriculturists of the North-West Territories; the principal is a thoroughly practical man, whose whole heart is devoted to the work in which he is engaged. I visited the celebrated Bell farm. This farm is entirely given up to wheat-raising; the fields are of immense size—some being four miles in length—the buildings on the farm are very good, the land of excellent quality, and well cultivated. After leaving Major Bell's, I visited what is known as the Brassey Farm. This is a property recently taken up by a Colonisation Company, of which Lord Brassey is chairman. They have acquired some 60 sections, or upwards of 38,000 acres, and considerable preparations are being made for the reception of emigrants. I arrived at Prince Albert on Sunday, 5th October. The

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from John Speir, p. 42

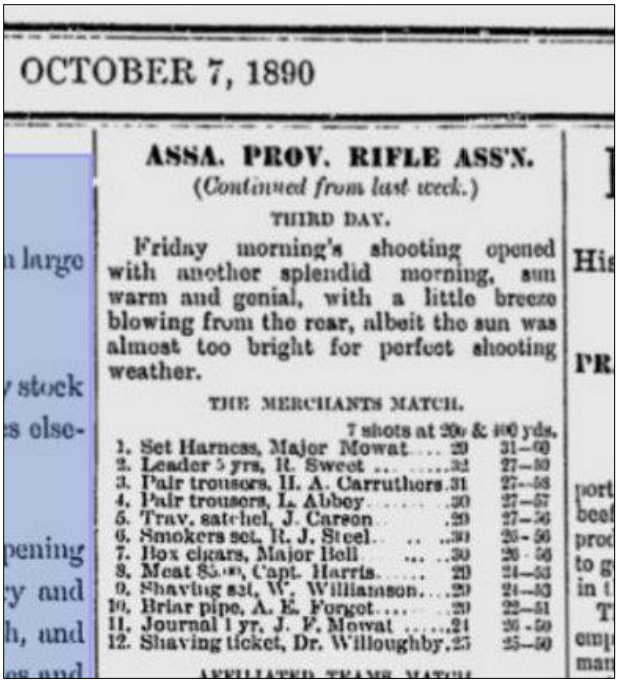
on to Neepawa. Here another day was passed seeing the farms and interviewing the farmers, after which we moved on to Portage-la-Prairie, where another day was spent seeing the district and people.

Here we again joined the Canadian Pacific Railway, which was followed to Indian Head, where we examined the Dominion Government Experimental Farm, the Bell Farm, and the Brassey Farm. Leaving Indian Head, we went on to Regina, where a short stay was made, and thence by a new branch line just finished we passed on to Prince Albert. Having had a day's driving round Prince Albert, we again returned to Regina, where an exhibition of roots, vegetables, &c,.

1890 – Oct. 3 – Visit of Tenant-Farmer Delegates to Canada from England – report from William Scotson, p. 58

Winnipeg, and these lines are fast throwing out branches. The lines west of Winnipeg, and tributary to it, aggregate 2,800 miles, where only ten years ago there was not a single mile in operation. Winnipeg appears destined to become one of the greatest commercial centres on the American Continent. I am convinced of this fact when I try to realise the future of Manitoba and the great North-Western territories. This great plain of prairie land, stretches from Winnipeg to Calgary, or near to the far-famed Rocky Mountains, a distance well on to 1,000 miles, through which the Canadian Pacific Railway track runs. All along this line of railway are agricultural towns and stations springing up. At many of these, such as Brandon, Regina, Calgary, &c., there are grain elevators to receive the grain as soon as it is threshed from the fields or stacks; also stores of every kind, and hotels and boarding houses, mostly built of wood. My readers will please remember 1,000 miles is a long way, and I have only mentioned three towns as illustrating quite a number of others, such as Portage-la-Prairie, a town of 3,000 inhabitants, and situated on the Assiniboine River, with grain elevators, flour mills, stores, &c. From Regina a branch railway runs north-west for 180 miles towards Prince Albert. Amongst the other towns are Rapid City, Minnedosa, Medicine Hat, Wolseley, Indian Head, &c., all on lines of railway. At Indian Head is situated another Government experimental farm, which is presided over by Mr. McCoy, a thoroughly practical man, well fitted for his post. In the same neighbourhood are the great Bell Farm and the Lord Brassey Farm, with their studs of horses and thousands of acres of land. All these places I visited: and when I tell my readers that ten years ago the sites of nearly all of them were unbroken, wild, prairie land, without a sign of civilization, they may begin to form some idea of the thousands upon thousands of acres of this same kind of prairie land still untouched in Manitoba and the North-West territories, and yet these regions are now beginning to export grain to the markets of the globe. Therefore, I feel that I am doing scant justice to this great plain, stretching from Winnipeg to Calgary, when I say, that it is now only beginning to be realised that here will be the great wheat-growing district, the granary of Canada. But it is not only grain that is grown here; I was driven over fully a thousand miles in light conveyances, diverging from some of the towns mentioned, and in my travels found potatoes everywhere, grown by all classes of settlers, from the large farms like Sir Donald Smith's, near Winnipeg,

1890 – Oct 7 – *Regina Leader* – p. 1 – Report on Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association competition - (continuation from previous week) – results include references to Major Bell's achievements. Prizes awarded at the Lansdowne Hotel, Regina.



OCTOBER 7, 1890

ASSA. PROV. RIFLE ASS'N.

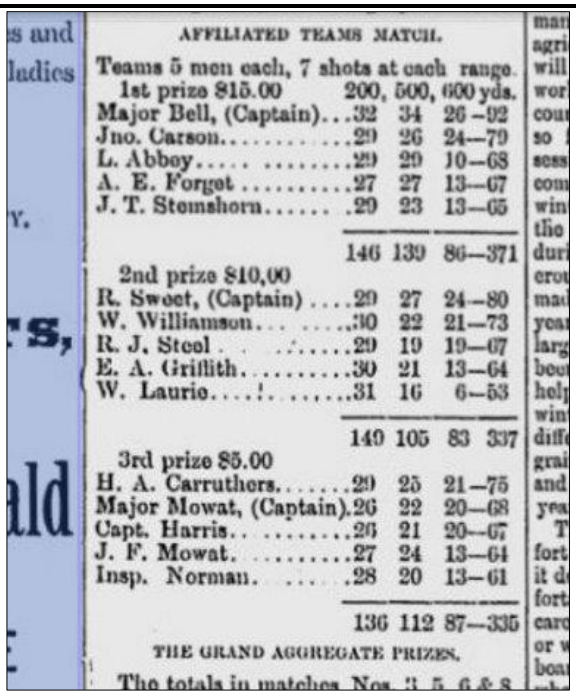
(Continued from last week.)

THIRD DAY.

Friday morning's shooting opened with another splendid morning, sun warm and genial, with a little breeze blowing from the rear, albeit the sun was almost too bright for perfect shooting weather.

THE MERCHANTS MATCH.

	7 shots at 200 & 600 yds.
1. Set Harness, Major Mowat	31—69
2. Leader 5 yrs, R. Sweet	27—59
3. Pair trousers, H. A. Carruthers	27—58
4. Pair trousers, L. Abbey	27—57
5. Trav. satchel, J. Carson	27—56
6. Smokers set, R. J. Steel	25—56
7. Box cigars, Major Bell	26—56
8. Meat Safe, Capt. Harris	24—53
9. Shaving set, W. Williamson	24—53
10. Briar pipe, A. E. Forget	22—51
11. Journal 1 yr, J. F. Mowat	26—50
12. Shaving ticket, Dr. Willoughby	25—50



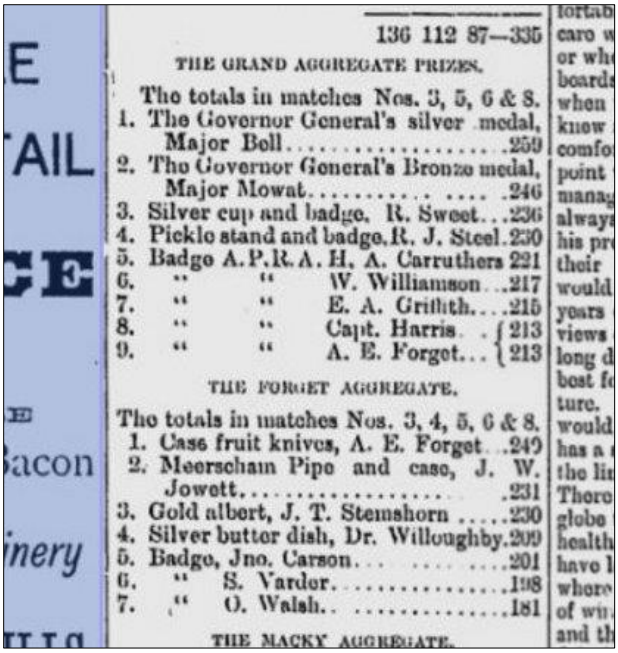
AFFILIATED TEAMS MATCH.

Teams 5 men each, 7 shots at each range.

1st prize $15.00	200,	500,	600 yds.	
Major Bell, (Captain)	32	34	26	92
Jno. Carson	29	26	24	79
L. Abbey	29	29	10	68
A. E. Forget	27	27	13	67
J. T. Stemshorn	29	23	13	65
	146	139	86	371
2nd prize $10.00				
R. Sweet, (Captain)	29	27	24	80
W. Williamson	30	22	21	73
R. J. Steel	29	19	19	67
E. A. Griffith	30	21	13	64
W. Laurie	31	16	6	53
	149	105	83	337
3rd prize $5.00				
H. A. Carruthers	29	25	21	75
Major Mowat, (Captain)	26	22	20	68
Capt. Harris	26	21	20	67
J. F. Mowat	27	24	13	64
Insp. Norman	28	20	13	61
	136	112	87	335

THE GRAND AGGREGATE PRIZES.

The totals in matches Nos. 3, 5, 6 & 8.



136 112 87—335

THE GRAND AGGREGATE PRIZES.

The totals in matches Nos. 3, 5, 6 & 8.

1. The Governor General's silver medal, Major Bell .259
2. The Governor General's Bronze medal, Major Mowat .246
3. Silver cup and badge, R. Sweet .236
4. Pickle stand and badge, R. J. Steel .230
5. Badge A.P.R.A. H. A. Carruthers 221
6. " " W. Williamson .217
7. " " E. A. Griffith .215
8. " " Capt. Harris .213
9. " " A. E. Forget .213

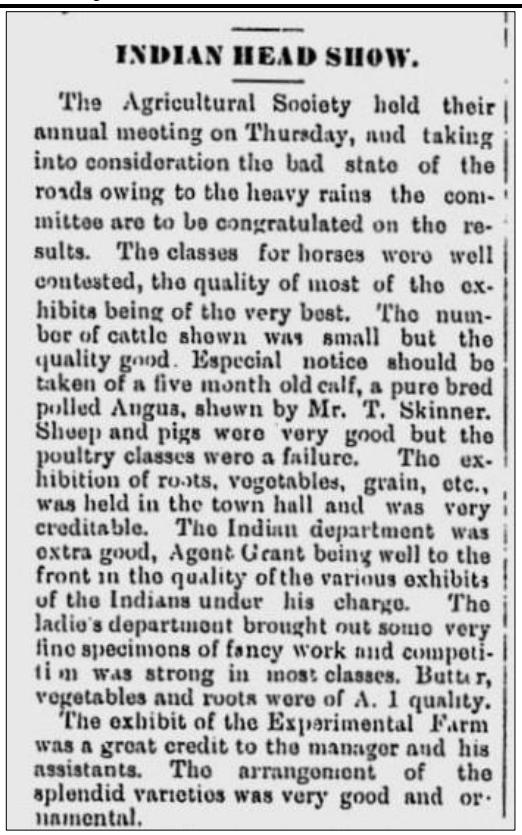
THE FORGET AGGREGATE.

The totals in matches Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8.

1. Case fruit knives, A. E. Forget .249
2. Meerschaum Pipe and case, J. W. Jowett .231
3. Gold albert, J. T. Stemshorn .230
4. Silver butter dish, Dr. Willoughby .209
5. Badge, Jno. Carson .201
6. " S. Varder .198
7. " O. Walsh .181

THE MACKY AGGREGATE.

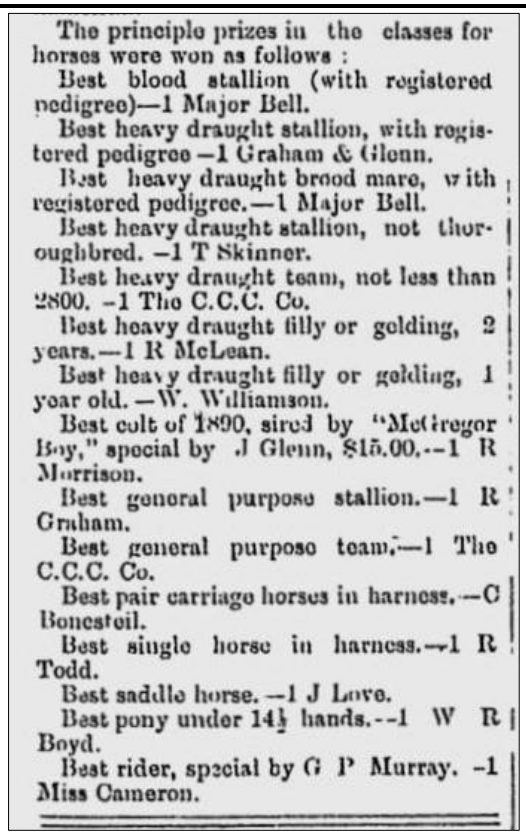
1890 – Oct. 14 – *Regina Evening Leader* , p. ___ – Indian Head Fair – Major Bell's prizes



INDIAN HEAD SHOW.

The Agricultural Society held their annual meeting on Thursday, and taking into consideration the bad state of the roads owing to the heavy rains the committee are to be congratulated on the results. The classes for horses were well contested, the quality of most of the exhibits being of the very best. The number of cattle shown was small but the quality good. Especial notice should be taken of a five month old calf, a pure bred polled Angus, shown by Mr. T. Skinner. Sheep and pigs were very good but the poultry classes were a failure. The exhibition of roots, vegetables, grain, etc., was held in the town hall and was very creditable. The Indian department was extra good, Agent Grant being well to the front in the quality of the various exhibits of the Indians under his charge. The ladie's department brought out some very fine specimens of fancy work and competition was strong in most classes. Butter, vegetables and roots were of A. 1 quality.

The exhibit of the Experimental Farm was a great credit to the manager and his assistants. The arrangement of the splendid varieties was very good and ornamental.



The principle prizes in the classes for horses were won as follows :

Best blood stallion (with registered pedigree)—1 Major Bell.

Best heavy draught stallion, with registered pedigree—1 Graham & Glenn.

Best heavy draught brood mare, with registered pedigree.—1 Major Bell.

Best heavy draught stallion, not thoroughbred. —1 T Skinner.

Best heavy draught team, not less than 2800. —1 The C.C.C. Co.

Best heavy draught filly or gelding, 2 years.—1 R McLean.

Best heavy draught filly or gelding, 1 year old.—W. Williamson.

Best colt of 1890, sired by "McGregor Boy," special by J Glenn, $15.00.—1 R Morrison.

Best general purpose stallion.—1 R Graham.

Best general purpose team.—1 The C.C.C. Co.

Best pair carriage horses in harness.—C Boneteil.

Best single horse in harness.—1 R Todd.

Best saddle horse.—1 J Love.

Best pony under 14½ hands.—1 W R Boyd.

Best rider, special by G P Murray. —1 Miss Cameron.

1890 – Oct. 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"Local Happenings (Fort Qu'Appelle) . . . Major Bell met with a terrible misfortune on Tuesday, in the matter of the loss by fire of one of his barns and contents – about 2,000 bushels of grain it is said."

1890 – Oct. 24 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __ – check for details

"Indian Head . . . Seventh annual agricultural exhibition" [Winners include "horses – bloods – stallion WR Bell, J. Glenn (protested)" Brood mare, WR Bell; Team, CCC Co, WR Bell.]

1890 – Oct. 25 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Bell Farm fire burns crops while threshing

"Three thousand bushels of wheat were burned at the Bell farm on Tuesday. The fire was caused by sparks from threshing."

1890 – November – *The Nor'West Farmer and Miller*, p. 656 – Major Bell member of Clydesdale Assoc. of Ont.

"THE FARMER has received from Secretary Wade of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Ontario. . . . . The list of members . . . . . includes . . . . . and Major Bell, Indian head, Assa."

1890 – Nov. 14 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 2 - Law Suit over apparently former Bell farm machinery and equipment (NOTE" is this the same Bell farm as at Indian Head?)

"**CIVIL CASES.** The Commercial Bank vs. Bissett – The plaintiffs became the possessor under a chattel mortgage of an engine and separator which had been in use upon the Bell farm, and which they agreed to sell to the plaintiff for $1,200, taking his two notes in settlement. At maturity payment was refused and this action was then commenced. Th defence set up is, that Mr. Harvie, the agent of the bank is selling the machine warranted to be in good order and to work satisfactorily, which it failed to do, and the defendant set up a counter claim for damages occasioned for loss of time and money on account of the machine not coming up to the warranty. The case was not concluded when the court rose and will be resumed to-morrow. R. Cassidy and Mr. Henderson appear for the bank; J.S. Ewart, Q.C., and Mr. Sifton for the defendant.

1890 – Nov. 25 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1 – Movement to buy the Bell Farm Mill and Elevator

"INDIAN HEAD. Indian Head, Nov. 18. – A movement is on foot to organize a "Farmers Joint Stock Milling and Elevator Company" to purchase the mill and elevator. It is to be hoped that the enterprise will be successful as it will be a great benefit not only to the town but to the farmers. The situation for a mill is one of the best, as there is plenty of wheat grown in the district to keep a mill running full time and the water supply is amply sufficient also. A public meeting is to be called to try and float the scheme."

1890 - Nov 26 1890, *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6 - Major Bell in Winnipeg en route to Europe

"Major Bell arrived in the city Monday from the Bell farm and reports that the crop there threshed out nearly all No. 2 hard. He estimates that his crop will run from 30 to 35 bushels to the acre and he has decided instead of shipping east to start his mill in operation for the winter. Major Bell intends visiting Monte Carlo his winter where he made such a successful shoot in the International pigeon match last year losing the Grand prize by his last bird dying within a few feet outside of the limits."

1890 – Nov. 27 – Brandon Sun, p.4 – Bell farm machinery law suit: Commercial bank vs. Bissett

"**THE ASSIZES** – CIVIL – Commercial Bank vs. Bissett. Notes: Henderson and Matheson (sic) for plaintiffs, Sifton and Philip for defendant. . . . . The Cases of Commercial bank vs. Bissett and Commercial bank vs. Foster were decidedly interesting to the farming public. It appears that threshing machines that had been in use on the Bell farm were brought to Brandon and sold. One was purchased by Mr. Fisher, of Elton, and another by Mr. Bissett, of Cornwallis. Suit was entered to collect amount of account. The claims were resisted on the ground that the machines were not up to the warranty. The plaintiffs claimed that no warrant was given. On the cases going to the jury that body decided that body decided (sic) a verbal warrant had been given. This was the point at issue. A further hearing will be taken before the full court. Henderson & Matthews (sic) and Cassidy for the plaintiffs, and Sifton & Philip and Ewart for the defendants."

1890 – Dec. 6 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 – Bell to operate grist mill at Indian Head

"**THE REPORTORIAL** ROUND . . . . It is said that Major Bell will run the grist mill at Indian Head this winter."

1890 – Dec. 16 – *Regina Leader* , p. 8 – Wm. Crispin managing Bell Farm

"Mr. Wm. Crispin from Barrie Ont. who has been managing the Bell Farm for Major Bell, called on the LEADER a few days ago. He is much pleased with the appearance of the Regina district, especially with the Qu'Appelle Valley, which he was shown by Mr. J. W. Young last week. He will remain here and probably start a ranch. He has entered for land."
[Source: John Sled: Lumsden Snapshots, 2017 edition, p. 298]

1890 – Dec 23 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Twenty carloads of wheat sold

"The first train load of twenty cars of the Bell Farm wheat left Indian Head on Friday."

1890 – Dec., 25 – Report of G.H. Campbell, on the Delegates Tour to Canada, including the Bell Farm

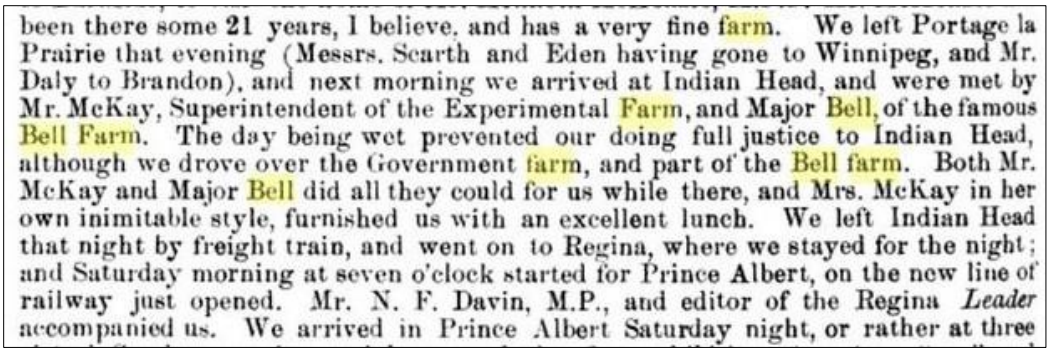
p. 101 – date and list of delegates

next day Major Stevenson arrived, thus completing the party of thirteen in all. The following are the names and addresses of the party:—

John T. Wood, Halewood, Lancashire, England.
Wm. Scotson, Mosley Hill, Liverpool do
H. Simmons, Reading, London do
R. Pitt, Ilminster, Somersetshire do
Geo. Daniels, Norfolk do
Geo. Hutchinson, Penrith, Cumberland do
Col. F. Fane, Fulbeck, Lincolnshire do
Wm. Edwards, Ruthvin, Wales
John Spier, Newton, Glasgow, Scotland.
Geo. Brown, Caithness do
Major D. W. Stevenson, Londonderry, Ireland.
E. R. Murphy, Tralee do
P. Foursin, Paris, France.

67 kb

p. 104 – references to "Major Bell, of the famous Bell Farm", and the Experimental Farms



been there some 21 years, I believe, and has a very fine farm. We left Portage la Prairie that evening (Messrs. Scarth and Eden having gone to Winnipeg, and Mr. Daly to Brandon), and next morning we arrived at Indian Head, and were met by Mr. McKay, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm, and Major Bell, of the famous Bell Farm. The day being wet prevented our doing full justice to Indian Head, although we drove over the Government farm, and part of the Bell farm. Both Mr. McKay and Major Bell did all they could for us while there, and Mrs. McKay in her own inimitable style, furnished us with an excellent lunch. We left Indian Head that night by freight train, and went on to Regina, where we stayed for the night; and Saturday morning at seven o'clock started for Prince Albert, on the new line of railway just opened. Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., and editor of the Regina *Leader* accompanied us. We arrived in Prince Albert Saturday night, or rather at three

100 kb

1891

1891 – Jan. 14 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p 8: - Major and Mrs. Bell sick while visiting Winnipeg.

"Major and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, have been at the Queen's for some weeks, both being very ill. The major is able to get around for a little while each day, but Mrs. Bell unfortunately is confined to her room."

1891 – Jan. 20 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell is healthy again and working in Winnipeg.

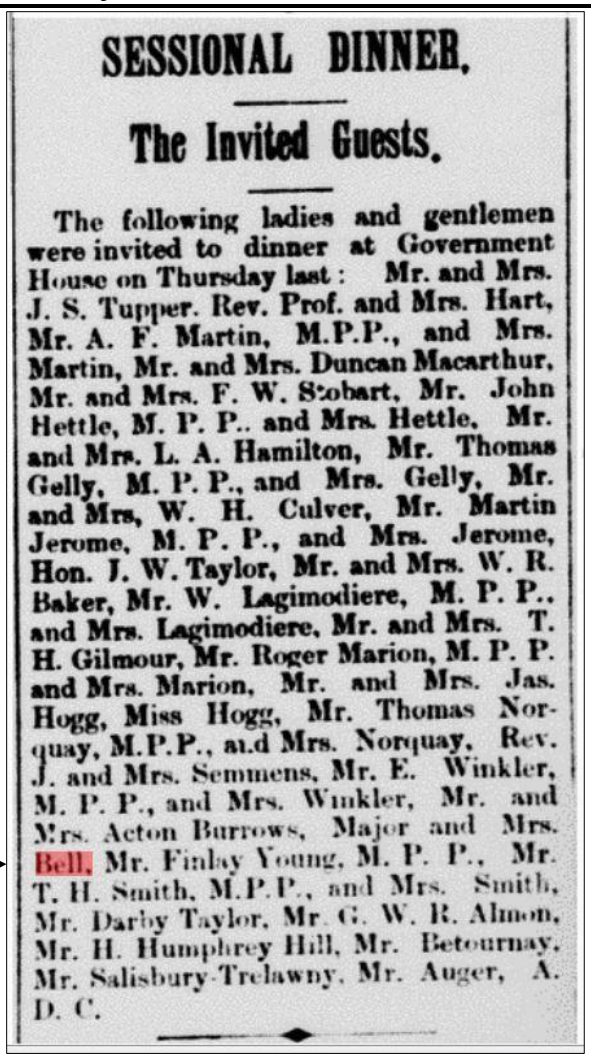
"PEOPLE IN PARAGRAPHS – Major Bell is able to be out attending to business."

1891 – Jan. 22 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1

(Jan. 22, 1891 "present proprietors of The Progress … will in future conduct the business recently carried on by the late proprietor . . ." [Politics, support the present Federal Administration. Owner G.S. Davidson, MLA. The former statement below the masthead about supporting prohibition is gone]

The Western World	January 1891	p. 9, 10 & 11	"The District of South Qu'Appelle" – by G.S. Davidson, M.L.A. – illustrations of Bell Farm work and section on the Bell Farm (p. 10 far right column & p. 11 far left column) – very extensive report – also refers to breeding Clydesdale horses – need to rescan, poor copy

1891 – April 9 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 2 – Bells at Sessional Dinner, Winnipeg – probably Major Bell from Indian Head, but might refer to another Major and Mrs. Bell.



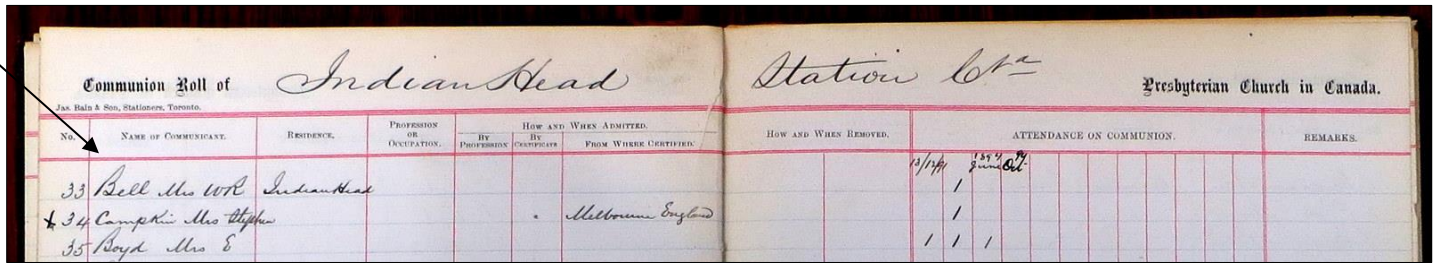
SESSIONAL DINNER.

The Invited Guests.

The following ladies and gentlemen were invited to dinner at Government House on Thursday last: Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Tupper. Rev. Prof. and Mrs. Hart, Mr. A. F. Martin, M.P.P., and Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Macarthur, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stobart, Mr. John Hettle, M. P. P., and Mrs. Hettle, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, Mr. Thomas Gelly, M. P. P., and Mrs. Gelly, Mr. and Mrs, W. H. Culver, Mr. Martin Jerome, M. P. P., and Mrs. Jerome, Hon. J. W. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Baker, Mr. W. Lagimodiere, M. P. P., and Mrs. Lagimodiere, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Gilmour, Mr. Roger Marion, M. P. P. and Mrs. Marion, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Hogg, Miss Hogg, Mr. Thomas Norquay, M.P.P., and Mrs. Norquay, Rev. J. and Mrs. Semmens, Mr. E. Winkler, M. P. P., and Mrs. Winkler, Mr. and Mrs. Acton Burrows, Major and Mrs. Bell, Mr. Finlay Young, M. P. P., Mr. T. H. Smith, M.P.P., and Mrs. Smith, Mr. Darby Taylor, Mr. G. W. R. Almon, Mr. H. Humphrey Hill, Mr. Betournay, Mr. Salisbury-Trelawny, Mr. Auger, A. D. C.

104 kb

1891 – May – Indian Head Presbyterian Church - Communion Register – Mrs. Bell



Communion Roll of Indian Head Station 6th Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Jas. Bain & Son, Stationers, Toronto.

No.	Name of Communicant.	Residence.	Profession or Occupation.	How and When Admitted. By Profession	By Certificate	From Where Certified.	How and When Removed.	Attendance on Communion.	Remarks.
33	Bell Mrs WR	Indian Head						3/1/91 1	
34	Campkin Mrs Stephen					Melbourne England		1	
35	Boyd Mrs E							1 1 1	

1891 – May – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
297	May 26, 1891	R. *Auzias-Tureme*	Grenoble (France)	

1891 - Chief Cegakin (Carry The Kettle)

Relocates band to Indian Head area from Cypress Hills (Source: http://www.sicc.sk.ca/archive/bands/bcarry1.html

1891 – Philip Leech comes to the Bell Farm from England, and remains with Major Bell until the farm closed in 1896.

"The Bell Farm was home for Philip for seven years. Major Bell operated this seven section enterprise in a military way. He had twenty men and eighty horses involved in the operation. Resourceful "green horn" Philip soon learned about the operation and became a foreman after two years. Life was a little on the rugged side. The men were housed in a bunkhouse that was often referred to as the coldest "sleeping quarters in the West." When it was -40 outside, it would be -42 inside those stone walls. Their winter diet consisted of salt pork and soda biscuits. One of the winter pastimes was catching pigeons, which roosted on the roof of the barn. Major Bell soon saw the pigeons as a source of income. One time he had 600 of them killed and shipped to Winnipeg for the restaurant trade.

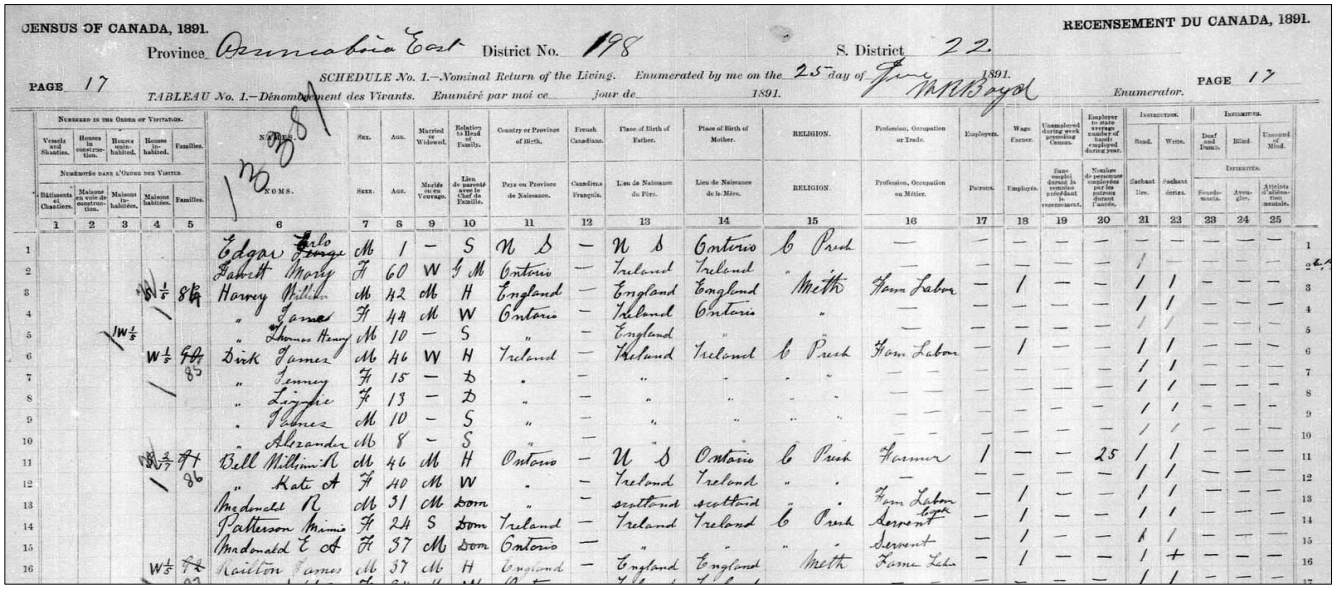
It just so happened that one of the employees of the Bell Farm was Pauline Fisher." [She was a Métis and later married Philip Leech.]

Source: "The Philip Leach Family – the first 100 Years", 2003 edition, p. 1

1891 – Philip Leech – memories in *Regina Leader Post* – 2 Aug, 1955 – Worked on Bell Farm for 7 years

"… He came first to Grenfell in 1891 and stayed 10 days. He then moved to Indian Head and for seven years worked on the farm of Major W.R. Bell, driving teams, ploughing, and generally getting his hand in with Canadian farming customs."

1891 – June 25 – *Canada Census* – William R. (46) and Kate A. (40):



CENSUS OF CANADA, 1891. RECENSEMENT DU CANADA, 1891.

Province Assiniboia East District No. 198 S. District 22.

PAGE 17 SCHEDULE No. 1.—Nominal Return of the Living. Enumerated by me on the 25 day of June 1891. PAGE 17

TABLEAU No. 1.—Dénombrement des Vivants. Enuméré par moi ce jour de 1891. Enumerator.

	Names of Persons / Noms	Sex.	Age.	Married or Widowed.	Relation to Head of Family.	Country or Province of Birth.	French Canadians.	Place of Birth of Father.	Place of Birth of Mother.	Religion.	Profession, Occupation or Trade.	Employers.	Employés.	Persons.	Wage Earner.	Unemployed during week preceding Census.	Employed for more than average number of hours of labour employed during year.	Instruction. Read.	Write.	Infirmities. Deaf and Dumb.	Blind.	Unsound of Mind.
1	Edgar Edgar Lalo	M	1	—	S	N S	—	N S	Ontario	C Prot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Gabriel Mary	F	60	W	M	Ontario	—	Ireland	Ireland	"	Meth	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	—	—	—	—
3	Harvey Willie	M	42	M	H	England	—	England	England	"	Meth	Farm Labor	—	/	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
4	" James	M	44	M	W	Ontario	—	Ireland	Ontario	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
5	" Thomas Henry	M	10	—	S	"	—	England	"	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
6	Dirk James	M	46	W	H	Ireland	—	Ireland	Ireland	C Prot	Farm Labor	—	—	/	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
7	" Jenny	F	15	—	D	"	—	"	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
8	" Lizzie	F	13	—	D	"	—	"	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
9	" James	M	10	—	S	"	—	"	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
10	" Alexander	M	8	—	S	"	—	"	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
11	Bell William R	M	46	M	H	Ontario	—	Ontario	Ontario	C Prot	Farmer	/	—	—	—	—	25	/	/	—	—	—
12	" Kate A	F	40	M	W	"	—	Ireland	Ireland	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
13	Mednotel R	M	31	M	Som	"	—	scotland	scotland	"	Farm Labor	—	—	/	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
14	Patterson Minnie	F	24	S	Dom	Ireland	—	Ireland	Ireland	C Prot	Servant	—	—	/	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
15	Mcdonald E A	F	37	M	Dom	Ontario	—	"	"	"	Servant	—	—	/	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—
16	Railton James	M	37	M	H	England	—	England	England	Meth	Farm Labr	—	—	/	—	—	—	/	/	—	—	—

1891 – late June – early July – Abraham Knechtel tours Indian Head area farms – Source: Aug. 10, 1891 report: Western Canada and the Great Resources.

I examined the Indian Head and Regina districts very thoroughly. The surface is level. The soil is heavier than that of the Brandon and Portage la Prairie districts. I should characterize it as a clay loam. It does not bake, but is soft and mellow and works easily. That it is rich can be seen from the crops and enormous garden vegetables it produces. To the south of Regina there is excellent grazing country. The water supply of Western Assiniboia is somewhat interesting. Farmers have dug 100 feet deep without reaching water, whereas at 25 feet from the first well an abundant supply has been obtained at a depth of not more than 40 feet. In one locality where there seems to have been difficulty in getting water, an excellent flowing well has been struck.

In 1903, Knechtel reported this anecdote from his 1891 trip:

Mr. KNECHTEL.—I have been intensely interested in these papers and I am very glad to know that the work of planting shelter belts in the North-west has been attended with such satisfactory results. I remember travelling through Manitoba and the North-west Territories a few years ago before this planting had begun. I was at the Experimental Farm at Indian Head and visited also the Experimental Farm at

Brandon. Now, when I was at Indian Head Mr. McKay showed me where he had planted some seeds in front of his house and then he took me round the pond and he showed me where the seeds had begun to grow on the other side of the pond. The wind had blown the seeds out and had carried them across the pond.

I was at the hotel in Regina. Major Bell came down there one morning and he said to the hotel keeper: 'I have some more land.' 'Well,' the hotel keeper said, 'I should think that a man with 4,000 acres had enough.' Major Bell said: 'I could not help getting this land because there was a high wind last night and it blew the Experimental Farm over to my property.' The hotel keeper said: 'Are you going to keep it?' 'No,' replied Major Bell; 'the wind may change to-night and blow it all back.'

Source: Report on the 4th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association, 1904.
By A.C. Knechtel, of Albany, New York (Forest, Fish & Game Commission)

1891 – July 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p __ (extracts) – check for details

[Annual Meeting of the Central Liberal-Conservative Association at the Immigration Building in Qu'Appelle.]

"The following is a list of the officers elected for the ensuing year: President: Major Bell, Indian Head…."

Later:

"The toast of 'army, navy and volunteers' was proposed coupled with which were the names of Major Bell and Mr. R.S. Lake.

Major Bell, in response, said he did not suppose there was a town in Canada that could boast so much of supporting volunteers and giving them an opportunity of distinguishing themselves as the little town of Qu'Appelle. From personal experience he could say that no men behaved themselves better than the Canadian volunteers in 1885."

Later:

"Mar. Daniel … Major Bell… all spoke to the very satisfactory manner in which they had been entertained and the sumptuous fare provided." (Convention was held at the Queen's Hotel, Qu'Appelle)

Later:

"Major Bell proposed the toast of 'The Conservative Association of Qu'Appelle', which was replied to by Mr. McLane."

1891 – July 2 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*, p. __ – (extract) – check for details

"INDIAN HEAD - The crops in this vicinity are everything that could be desired. Both Major Bell and Mr. W.B. Shephard report the grain in excellent condition. The heavy showers of the past two weeks have done wonders, consequently, everybody is in the best of spirits."

1891 – July 9 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. __

"A building boom has struck Indian Head. Mr. Osment is building a large warehouse and Mr. Conn a carpenter's shop on Grand Avenue. "

1891 – July 14 – *Regina Leader* – p. 4 – Bell Farm crop report

"BELL FARM CROPS. Major Bell has, with his well-known energy and enterprise, again put in an immense area of grain – principally wheat – on the Bell Farm at Indian Head. He has a total of 2,200 acres under as fine a crop as a man has ever set eyes on. With the exception of a small field of 300 acres which was slightly "hailed" by one of the very uncommon storms of the present season, the whole twenty-two hundred acres look in magnificent condition, and barring accidents the Major will most certainly have a fat harvest."

1891 – Aug. 3 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 6 – Bell contradicts crop damage report

"CROP NOTES: . . . Major Bell of Indian Head, contradicts most emphatically the report that a portion of his crop was damaged by hail. It is all in splendid condition and promises a bounteous harvest. . . . ."

1891 – Aug. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – p.___

Mr. Wesbrooks, of Winnipeg - Tour of crops in Qu'Appelle District – (FRANK: likely included Bell Farm.)

"**INDIAN HEAD.** Mr. Wesbrooks, of Winnipeg, who was in town a few days since and who travelled through the Qu'Appelle district, stated that the outlook for a bountiful harvest was very gratifying and far exceeded his most sanguine expectations."

1891 – Aug. 13 - *Northern Advance*, Barrie, Ont. p. 1 – Jack McKee, Bell's nephew, visits Bell Farm

"Jack Mckee this week started for the Northwest to reside with his aunt Mrs. Bell on the Bell Farm."

1891 – Aug 21 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - – check for details – unable to find in this newspaper

1891 – Aug. 22 – *Sessional Paper* 1892– No. 7f, Vol. 6, p. 7f-53 – Annual Inspection of Experimental Farms by Wm Saunders, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms.

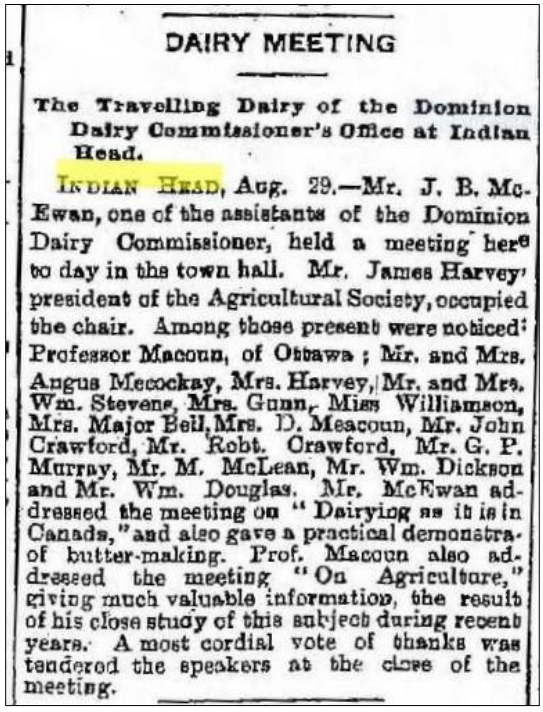
> "On the 22nd some of the neighbouring farms were visited and the crops examined. Several miles of luxuriant wheat fields were seen on the Bell Farm and on the recently established farm of Lord Brassey. The crops of many smaller places were also inspected. Everywhere the wheat looked well, and the growth was luxuriant, but it was noticed here as well as in Manitoba, that wheat on summer fallow where the land was heavy and had been well farmed was much later than that growing on lighter and poorly worked soil. This was a result of the unusual rainfall, and should not lesson the confidence in summer fallowing, as such conditions many not occur again to the same extent for years."

1891 – Aug. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __

> "Mr. Roderick McKinnon sued Major Bell on Thursday last under the Master and Servant Act, for wages claimed. The case was tried before James Harvey JP. Mr. AD Dickson appeared for Mr. Bell. Case dismissed.

1891 – Sept 1 – *Regina Leader* – check for details – unable to find in this newspaper

1891 – Sept. 7 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 5 – Mrs. Bell at Dairy meeting. (which Major Bell?)



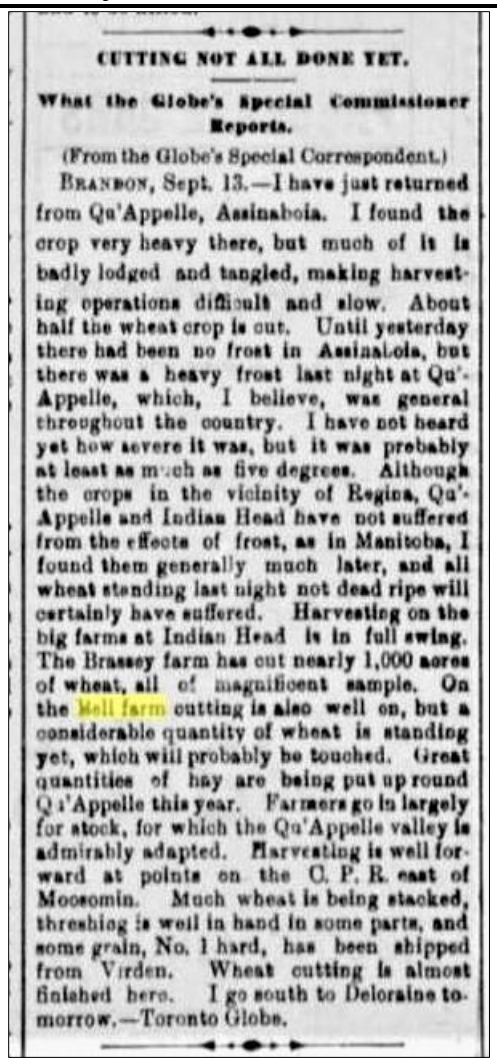
DAIRY MEETING

The Travelling Dairy of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner's Office at Indian Head.

INDIAN HEAD, Aug. 29.—Mr. J. B. McEwan, one of the assistants of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, held a meeting here to day in the town hall. Mr. James Harvey president of the Agricultural Society, occupied the chair. Among those present were noticed: Professor Macoun, of Ottawa; Mr. and Mrs. Angus Mecockay, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stevens, Mrs. Gunn, Miss Williamson, Mrs. Major Bell, Mrs. D. Meacoun, Mr. John Crawford, Mr. Robt. Crawford, Mr. G. P. Murray, Mr. M. McLean, Mr. Wm. Dickson and Mr. Wm. Douglas. Mr. McEwan addressed the meeting on "Dairying as it is in Canada," and also gave a practical demonstration of butter-making. Prof. Macoun also addressed the meeting "On Agriculture," giving much valuable information, the result of his close study of this subject during recent years. A most cordial vote of thanks was tendered the speakers at the close of the meeting.

134 kb

1891 – Sept. 17 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1 – Sept. 13th harvest report at Bell and Brassey Farms after frost hit West



CUTTING NOT ALL DONE YET.

What the Globe's Special Commissioner Reports.

(From the Globe's Special Correspondent.)

BRANDON, Sept. 13.—I have just returned from Qu'Appelle, Assiniboia. I found the crop very heavy there, but much of it is badly lodged and tangled, making harvesting operations difficult and slow. About half the wheat crop is cut. Until yesterday there had been no frost in Assiniboia, but there was a heavy frost last night at Qu'Appelle, which, I believe, was general throughout the country. I have not heard yet how severe it was, but it was probably at least as much as five degrees. Although the crops in the vicinity of Regina, Qu'Appelle and Indian Head have not suffered from the effects of frost, as in Manitoba, I found them generally much later, and all wheat standing last night not dead ripe will certainly have suffered. Harvesting on the big farms at Indian Head is in full swing. The Brassey farm has cut nearly 1,000 acres of wheat, all of magnificent sample. On the Bell farm cutting is also well on, but a considerable quantity of wheat is standing yet, which will probably be touched. Great quantities of hay are being put up round Qu'Appelle this year. Farmers go in largely for stock, for which the Qu'Appelle valley is admirably adapted. Harvesting is well forward at points on the C. P. R. east of Moosomin. Much wheat is being stacked, threshing is well in hand in some parts, and some grain, No. 1 hard, has been shipped from Virden. Wheat cutting is almost finished here. I go south to Deloraine tomorrow.—Toronto Globe.

117 kb

1891 – Sept 17 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Tanner and Sheppard at Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Hotel

> "Prof. Tanner, and Mr. Sheppard, manager of the Brassey Farm, were in town on Tuesday, and report crop prospects as being way beyond their highest expectations on the Farm, and also all through the country they travelled."
>
> AND
>
> "The following are among the arrivals at the Qu'Appelle Valley Hotel during the past week: . . . W.B. Sheppard, Indian Head; Prof. Tanner, England; . . ." [Frank's Note: this hotel is located in Fort Qu'Appelle]

1891 – 17 Sept – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Bell Farm Flour Mill idle since 1886

> "**INDIAN HEAD:** A large and influential meeting of the citizens was held last evening for the purpose of restarting the flour mill, which has lain idle since 1886, and has thereby caused much inconvenience and annoyance to this locality. The cutting being now nearly completed, and with almost 400,000 bushels of No. 1 hard wheat in sight, the people here are determined to have the mill running once more. Judging by the opinion expressed by the various speakers last evening there is little doubt that the 1st of December will see the mill working full time. The

proposal laid before the meeting by one of the most popular millers of the Northwest was most favourably received and the local committee in whose hands rest the carrying out of all arrangements are confident of bringing them to a successful issue."

1891 – Sept. 22 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 2 – Harvest at the Bell Farm

"**INDIAN HEAD ITEMS** - Grain cutting on the Bell Farm has been finished – in all eighteen hundred acres."

1891 – Sept. 24 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Harvest on Brassey and Bell Farms; and Surveying at Brassey lands

Territorial Echoes.

Indian Head.

Grain harvest on the Brassey farm was finished yesterday, reflecting much credit on the management. The six Paterson binders set up at the commencement stood the heavy strain throughout without the slighest repairs. Threshing the golden grain will soon become the order of the day.

The first appearance of frost occurred on the 12th inst., but appears to have done little damage to the wheat as a large proportion thereof was previously harvested and the balance well filled.

Mr. W. T. Thompson, D.L.S., has been engaged the past few days defining the limits of the Canadian Alliance and Sunbeam farms, containing about 2,500 acres each, adjoining the town.

Mr. Bedford, of the Brandon Experimental Farm, was in town on the 15th inst., and paid a visit to the Experimental farm here, and was highly gratified with the grain and root crops.

Harvesting on Major Bell's farm is being pushed with almost unparelleled rapidity. The major is a gentleman of much energy and perseverance.

The Commercial hotel is occupied to its utmost capacity, travellers arriving and departing almost continually

1891 – Oct 1 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Bell to sell Flour Mill for $2,500

"Messrs. Benson and George, of this place, have made arrangements where they, with the assistance of a _____ of some $2,500 from farmers in the Indian Head Municipality, will take over the Indian Head Mill, having secured that institution for a merely nominal price from Major Bell." [Frank's Note: J. Benson is the miller in Qu'Appelle.]

1891 – October – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments

298	Oct. 22, 1891	A.*S. ????*	Regina	Saskatchewan

1891 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
2018	L 05	SCNWT 184/91	G. McIvov Vs. W.R. Bell	1891	

1891 – Nov. 3 – *Regina Leader,* p. 1 – Bell Farm harvest report

> "Major Bell finished stacking his grain on the 24th and began threshing with two steam threshers on the 26th inst. The Major is a paragon of energy, perseverance, and discipline."

1891 – Nov. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

> "Indian Head . . Major Bell reports his wheat yield far above his most sanguine expectations.
>
> "Mrs. Patterson, mother of Mr. Patterson, foreman on the Bell Farm, was buried yesterday."

1891 – Dec. 1 - *Northern Advance,* Barrie Ont. p. 8 – The Bell's nephew returns to Ontario

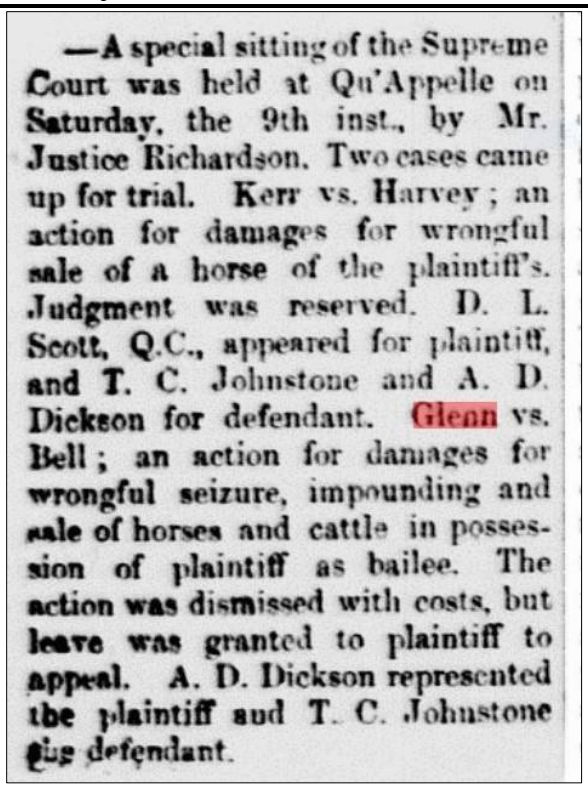
> "Mr. Jack McKee, who has been on the Bell Farm in the Northwest during the summer, has returned home for a visit of some weeks."

1891 – _____

> Major Bell wins second prize - Gov. General bronze medal - at competition

1892

1892 – Jan. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*. P. 4 – court case: Bell vs Glenn



—A special sitting of the Supreme Court was held at Qu'Appelle on Saturday, the 9th inst., by Mr. Justice Richardson. Two cases came up for trial. Kerr vs. Harvey; an action for damages for wrongful sale of a horse of the plaintiff's. Judgment was reserved. D. L. Scott, Q.C., appeared for plaintiff, and T. C. Johnstone and A. D. Dickson for defendant. Glenn vs. Bell; an action for damages for wrongful seizure, impounding and sale of horses and cattle in possession of plaintiff as bailee. The action was dismissed with costs, but leave was granted to plaintiff to appeal. A. D. Dickson represented the plaintiff and T. C. Johnstone the defendant.

135 kb

1892 – Jan. 30 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 – Major Bell leaves Winnipeg for Indian Head

> "**PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT.** Major Bell left for the west today."

1892 – Feb. 3 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 6 – Major Bell goes West; Mrs. Bell goes East

> "Major Bell went west yesterday, Mrs. Bell leaves on a visit to Toronto. On Monday the major sold a small quantity of wheat to S.P. Clark & Co., just 30,000 bushels at a figure satisfactory to all parties."

1892 – Feb. 12 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p.4 – Major Bell in Winnipeg at the Manitoba Hotel

> "**People We Talk About** . . . . . Major Bell is registered at the Manitoba."

1892 – Feb. 25 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

> "Indian Head . . . Mr. Osment is removing into his new store, which when finished will be one of the finest buildings in the North-West."

1892 – Feb. 29 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major and Mrs. Bell in Winnipeg

> "**CITY AND COUNTRY** . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell are staying at the Manitoba"

1892 – March 1 – *Annual Report for the Toronto Home for the Incurables*, p. 37-38 – Collected by Misses Kendrick and Skae - Donation by Mrs. Bell of Indian Head (This is presumed to be Major Bell's wife Katherine.)

Mrs. Harris	1 00	Mrs. J. Downey	1 00
Mrs. R. S. Baird	1 00	Mrs. Wm. Goulding	1 00
Mrs. Bell (Indian Head)	1 00	Mrs. Bonnell	1 00
Miss Watson	1 00	Mrs. Gregg	1 00
Miss Lakey	1 00	Mrs. Mitchell	1 00

1892 – March 14 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 5 – Major Bell in Winnipeg

"AT THE HOTELS – Manitoba - . . . . Major Bell, Indian Head, ... "

1892 – March 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"Indian Head . . Major Bell's new boiler has arrived and workmen are now busy placing it in its position in the boiler house. The Major expects to have the mill running in full swing by the latter end of next week.

"Mr. Osment has just received a carload of furniture. He is now using his old store for that department alone."

1892 – March 18 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Man. Gov. Hse. (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

"**AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE** . . . . The following is a list of those who called at Government House yesterday afternoon: . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell . . . . ."

1892 – March 25 - *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Man. Gov. Hse. (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

"**AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE** . . . . The following is a list of those who called at Government House yesterday afternoon: Major and Mrs. Bell . . . . ."

1892 – April 4 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Bell to start seeding

"**Bell Farm Seeding**: Major Bell, whom we met on Monday last week, said he intended to commence seeding the following morning. He will put in a large acreage. He has yet six week's threshing to do, but all his stacks are in excellent condition and well protected."

1892 – April 7 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

[Indian Head. Citizen's ball. String band by permission of Commission Herchmer. A first for Indian Head.]

"Much credit is due to M. A.J. Osment, chairman of the committee, for the success of the entertainment. April 2, 1892."

1892 – April 20 – *Winnipeg Tribune* , p. 5 – Major Bell returns to Indian Head from Winnipeg trip

"PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT - Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, went west yesterday."

1892 – April 25 – *Regina Leader,* p. 1 – Major Bell on Rifle Association Council

1892 – April 28 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 2 – Tanner and Bell – possible sale of farm to Brassey

"**The Brassey Farms -** In reference to the report of the sale of Major Bell's large farm to the company Professor Tanner would only allow that there have been certain negotiations – Free Press."

1892 – Spring - William Mooney plows Bell Farm land – (reported in Regina Leader-Post, 26 Feb, 1955)

"William Mooney was born on a 100 acre bush farm in Huron County, Ontario, in 1871. He first came west on a harvest train in 1889. He was impressed with the west, but was unable to remain permanently until 1892 when he arrived at Indian Head with a team of horses, a little furniture and enough lumber to build a 12 x 18 shack. He plowed for a month on the Bell farm (a large farm development undertaken by a group of Englishmen) for $2 per acre, and was able to make a small payment on a quarter of C.P.R. land where he built a shack. When he began to break the land it proved to be extremely stoney."

1892 – May 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"A farmer south-east of Indian Head was summoned before Major Bell, J.P., by the Alliance Farming Company, for trespassing over their lands. The Company did not press for a heavy fine, but desired to prove their right to keep people off cultivated land. The defendant having pled guilty, was fined $1.00 and $1.45 costs."

1892 – May 28 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1 – Major Bell leaves Ottawa for Montreal

"LATEST FROM OTTAWA – Major Bell, W.R. Bell, of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, was in town yesterday, but in the evening he left for Montreal to spend a few days. He reports the season late in the Northwest, but states that observations have convinced him that there is always a better crop with a late season."

1892 – June 8-16 – Eighteenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Montreal

PRESBYTERY OF REGINA.

This Presbytery has made a decided gain during the year, families and communicants having increased in every congregation. The financial record has also improved. To the four congregations previously on the list, *Indian Head* has been added. The *Prince Albert* people are working unitedly and heartily in the advancement of the best interests of the congregation. A substantial brick church, costing over $4,000, was built last year. The *Moosejaw* congregation built a comfortable brick manse, and is a flourishing condition. Mr. Ferry resigned *Qu'Appelle* lately, and the congregation is now vacant. *Moosomin* has enlarged its church and nearly doubled its communion roll. The *Fleming* station built a new church, and is growing. *Indian Head* called J. K. Welsh, and contributes at the

125 kb

lxii. APPENDIX No. 1.

rate of $17.85 per communicant towards his support. The way in which the lands of the Bell Farm are held militates against the growth of settlement, but the congregation is increasing steadily. These five congregations have 9 stations, 6 churches, 2 manses, 242 families, 73 persons not connected with these families, and 307 communicants. The amount promised for salary is, including manses, $3,800, or $12.60 per communicant. The average amount promised to each congregation from the Augmentation Fund is $240.

90 kc

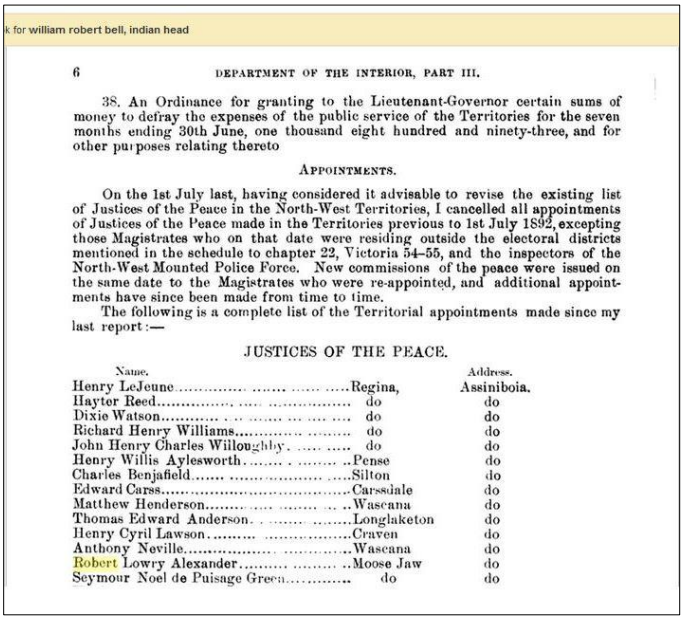
1892 – June 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

[Convention of the Central Liberal-Conservative Association of East Assiniboia, Moosomin June 9. Major Bell, president, occupied the chair. Election of officers included first vice-president A.C Patterson (manager of the Progress); Secretary-Treasurer, A.S. Lake, Grenfell. Executive Committee included Major Bell. Dinner with toasts include The Army, Navy and Volunteers to which Capt. Price responded (This may be Capt. Price and his home on *Legacy of Stone's* page 3]

407 kb

Captain Price House, near Moosomin

1892 – July 1 – Annual Report for dept. of the Interior, Part 3, p. 6. Appointment of new Justices of the Peace



k for william robert bell, indian head

6 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, PART III.

38. An Ordinance for granting to the Lieutenant-Governor certain sums of money to defray the expenses of the public service of the Territories for the seven months ending 30th June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, and for other purposes relating thereto

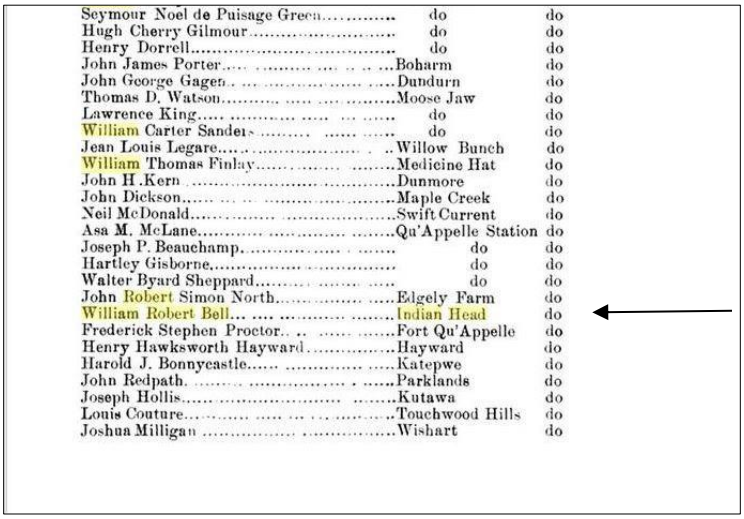
APPOINTMENTS.

On the 1st July last, having considered it advisable to revise the existing list of Justices of the Peace in the North-West Territories, I cancelled all appointments of Justices of the Peace made in the Territories previous to 1st July 1892, excepting those Magistrates who on that date were residing outside the electoral districts mentioned in the schedule to chapter 22, Victoria 54-55, and the inspectors of the North-West Mounted Police Force. New commissions of the peace were issued on the same date to the Magistrates who were re-appointed, and additional appointments have since been made from time to time.

The following is a complete list of the Territorial appointments made since my last report:—

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Name.	Address.
Henry LeJeune	Regina,
Haytor Reed	do
Dixie Watson	do
Richard Henry Williams	do
John Henry Charles Willoughby	do
Henry Willis Aylesworth	Pense
Charles Benjafield	Silton
Edward Carss	Carssdale
Matthew Henderson	Wascana
Thomas Edward Anderson	Longlaketon
Henry Cyril Lawson	Craven
Anthony Neville	Wascana
Robert Lowry Alexander	Moose Jaw
Seymour Noel de Puisage Green	do



Seymour Noel de Puisage Green	do	do
Hugh Cherry Gilmour	do	do
Henry Dorrell	do	do
John James Porter	Boharm	do
John George Gagen	Dundurn	do
Thomas D. Watson	Moose Jaw	do
Lawrence King	do	do
William Carter Sander	do	do
Jean Louis Legare	Willow Bunch	do
William Thomas Finlay	Medicine Hat	do
John H. Kern	Dunmore	do
John Dickson	Maple Creek	do
Neil McDonald	Swift Current	do
Asa M. McLane	Qu'Appelle Station	do
Joseph P. Beauchamp	do	do
Hartley Gisborne	do	do
Walter Byard Sheppard	do	do
John Robert Simon North	Edgely Farm	do
William Robert Bell	Indian Head	do
Frederick Stephen Proctor	Fort Qu'Appelle	do
Henry Hawksworth Hayward	Hayward	do
Harold J. Bonnycastle	Katepwe	do
John Redpath	Parklands	do
Joseph Hollis	Kutawa	do
Louis Couture	Touchwood Hills	do
Joshua Milligan	Wishart	do

1892 – July 14, 21 and Aug 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – advertisement for Bell Farm Mill

FLOUR.

The Bell Farm
ROLLER MILLS

Is offering

Flour in lots of 10 Bags

And upwards at

THE MILL INDIAN HEAD,

At the following prices:

Patent Process.	$1.80 per Bag
First Quality Strong Bakers	1.60 „
Second Quality Strong Bakers	1.40 „
XXX	90 „

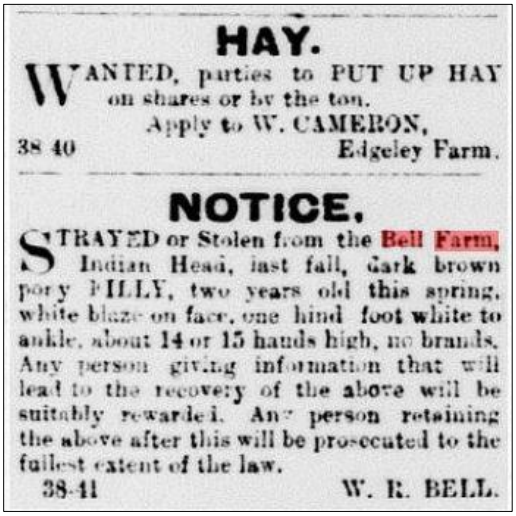
W. R. BELL.
Proprietor.

61 kb

1892 – July 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

> "Major Bell had the misfortune on Thursday evening to sprain his ankle, and is now laid up at the Manitoba Hotel, Winnipeg. He will probably be confined to his room for some time."

1892 – 21 July and Aug 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – ad for lost or stolen horse from Bell Farm; and Edgeley Farm hay



HAY.

WANTED, parties to PUT UP HAY on shares or by the ton.
Apply to W. CAMERON,
38 40 Edgeley Farm.

NOTICE.

STRAYED or Stolen from the Bell Farm, Indian Head, last fall, dark brown pony FILLY, two years old this spring, white blaze on face, one hind foot white to ankle, about 14 or 15 hands high, no brands. Any person giving information that will lead to the recovery of the above will be suitably rewarded. Any person retaining the above after this will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
38-41 W. R. BELL.

41 kb

1892 – Summer – new Brassey Stone Barn at the Sunbeam Farm

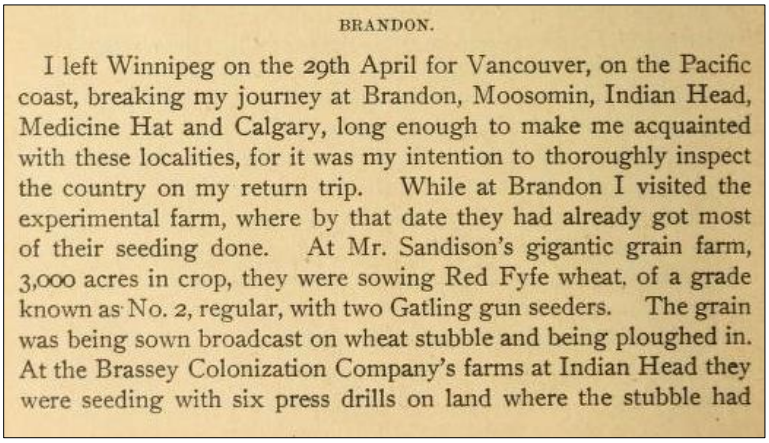
> William M. Elkington treks across the Bell Farm while working on construction of the Lord Brassey's Sunbeam stone barn, SW of Indian Head; paid $1.75 per day to help the contractor – to help keep the

various stonemasons supplied with stones, break stones and carry mortar. (Source: *Five Years in Canada*, by W.M. Elkington, 1895, p. 98-99,)

1892 – July – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
299	July 1892	P.R. Ritchie	Ongar, Essex	England

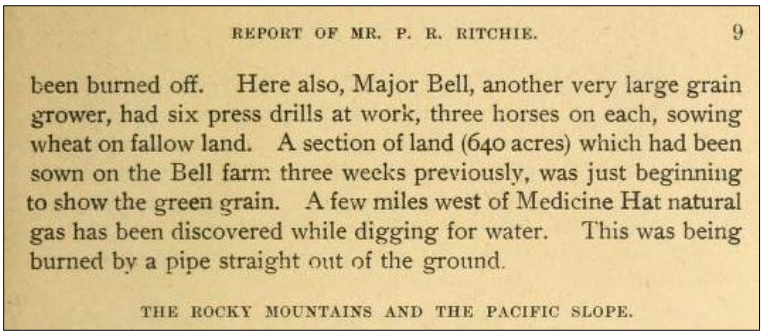
1892 – July - Visit from Peter R. Ritchie:



BRANDON.

I left Winnipeg on the 29th April for Vancouver, on the Pacific coast, breaking my journey at Brandon, Moosomin, Indian Head, Medicine Hat and Calgary, long enough to make me acquainted with these localities, for it was my intention to thoroughly inspect the country on my return trip. While at Brandon I visited the experimental farm, where by that date they had already got most of their seeding done. At Mr. Sandison's gigantic grain farm, 3,000 acres in crop, they were sowing Red Fyfe wheat, of a grade known as No. 2, regular, with two Gatling gun seeders. The grain was being sown broadcast on wheat stubble and being ploughed in. At the Brassey Colonization Company's farms at Indian Head they were seeding with six press drills on land where the stubble had

46 kb

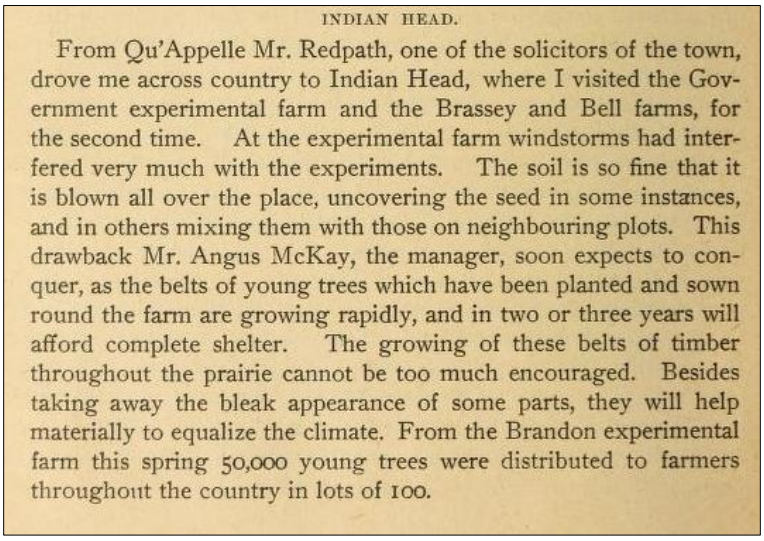


REPORT OF MR. P. R. RITCHIE. 9

been burned off. Here also, Major Bell, another very large grain grower, had six press drills at work, three horses on each, sowing wheat on fallow land. A section of land (640 acres) which had been sown on the Bell farm three weeks previously, was just beginning to show the green grain. A few miles west of Medicine Hat natural gas has been discovered while digging for water. This was being burned by a pipe straight out of the ground.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

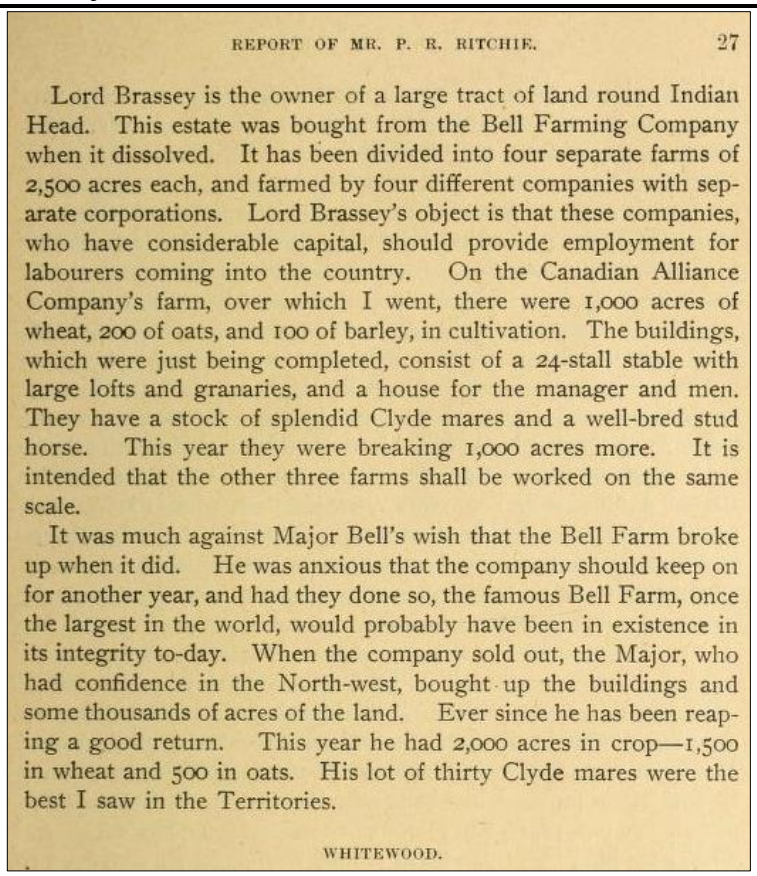
31 kb



INDIAN HEAD.

From Qu'Appelle Mr. Redpath, one of the solicitors of the town, drove me across country to Indian Head, where I visited the Government experimental farm and the Brassey and Bell farms, for the second time. At the experimental farm windstorms had interfered very much with the experiments. The soil is so fine that it is blown all over the place, uncovering the seed in some instances, and in others mixing them with those on neighbouring plots. This drawback Mr. Angus McKay, the manager, soon expects to conquer, as the belts of young trees which have been planted and sown round the farm are growing rapidly, and in two or three years will afford complete shelter. The growing of these belts of timber throughout the prairie cannot be too much encouraged. Besides taking away the bleak appearance of some parts, they will help materially to equalize the climate. From the Brandon experimental farm this spring 50,000 young trees were distributed to farmers throughout the country in lots of 100.

67 kb



REPORT OF MR. P. R. RITCHIE. 27

Lord Brassey is the owner of a large tract of land round Indian Head. This estate was bought from the Bell Farming Company when it dissolved. It has been divided into four separate farms of 2,500 acres each, and farmed by four different companies with separate corporations. Lord Brassey's object is that these companies, who have considerable capital, should provide employment for labourers coming into the country. On the Canadian Alliance Company's farm, over which I went, there were 1,000 acres of wheat, 200 of oats, and 100 of barley, in cultivation. The buildings, which were just being completed, consist of a 24-stall stable with large lofts and granaries, and a house for the manager and men. They have a stock of splendid Clyde mares and a well-bred stud horse. This year they were breaking 1,000 acres more. It is intended that the other three farms shall be worked on the same scale.

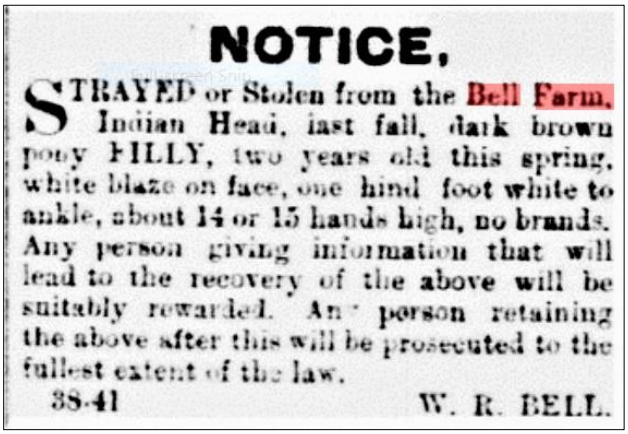
It was much against Major Bell's wish that the Bell Farm broke up when it did. He was anxious that the company should keep on for another year, and had they done so, the famous Bell Farm, once the largest in the world, would probably have been in existence in its integrity to-day. When the company sold out, the Major, who had confidence in the North-west, bought up the buildings and some thousands of acres of the land. Ever since he has been reaping a good return. This year he had 2,000 acres in crop—1,500 in wheat and 500 in oats. His lot of thirty Clyde mares were the best I saw in the Territories.

WHITEWOOD.

98 kb

1892 – Aug. 1 – *Regina Leader* – check for details - can't find article in this issue

1892 – Aug. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4 – Bell advertises for Lost or Stolen horse



NOTICE,

STRAYED or Stolen from the Bell Farm, Indian Head, last fall, dark brown pony FILLY, two years old this spring, white blaze on face, one hind foot white to ankle, about 14 or 15 hands high, no brands. Any person giving information that will lead to the recovery of the above will be suitably rewarded. Any person retaining the above after this will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

38-41 W. R. BELL.

104 kb

1892 – Aug. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __ – check for details

[Indian Head Agricultural Fair: WR Bell took first place for his 'blood horse" stallion and his heavy draft horse. Lots of references to prizes to "W.R. Bell" but not sure if this is Major Bell or someone else]

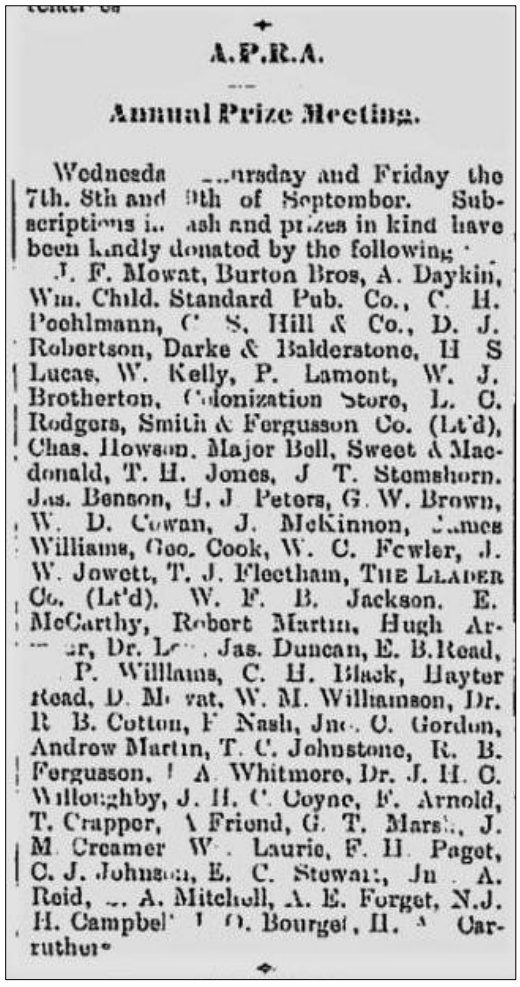
1892 – Aug. 23 – *Sessional Papers 1893 :* Vol. 19, No. 14, p. 14-148 - Indian Agent (J.B. Lash) Report, Muscowpetung Agency – Standing Buffalo workers paid $1,600

"The Sioux (Standing Buffalo's Band) have been placed on their own resources and have made a very comfort able living; their crops were good and outside work plentiful; during the harvest season they received for work at the Bell Farm, $1,600."

1892 – Aug. 25 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 8 – possibly donated by Major Bell???

"Lieut. Shillinglaw and Mr. Arthur Fleming, left for Ottawa on Monday morning express to attend the Dominion Rifle March. Lieut. Shillinglaw is the present holder of the "Bell Cup" – the Manitoba trophy.

1892 – Sept 5 - *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 8 – A.P.R.A. Annual Prize Meeting – Major Bell among donors



A.P.R.A.

Annual Prize Meeting.

Wednesda ...rsday and Friday the 7th. 8th and 9th of September. Subscriptions i.. ash and prizes in kind have been kindly donated by the following:

J. F. Mowat, Burton Bros, A. Daykin, Wm. Child. Standard Pub. Co., C. H. Poehlmann, C. S. Hill & Co., D. J. Robertson, Darke & Balderstone, H S Lucas, W. Kelly, P. Lamont, W. J. Brotherton, Colonization Store, L. C. Rodgers, Smith & Fergusson Co. (Lt'd), Chas. Howson, Major Bell, Sweet & Macdonald, T. H. Jones, J T. Stonehorn. Jas. Benson, H. J Peters, G. W. Brown, W. D. Cowan, J. McKinnon, James Williams, Geo. Cook, W. C. Fowler, J. W. Jowett, T. J. Fleetham, THE LEADER Co. (Lt'd). W. F. B. Jackson. E. McCarthy, Robert Martin, Hugh Ar... er, Dr. L... Jas. Duncan, E. B. Read, ... P. Williams, C. H. Black, Hayter Read, D. M... vat, W. M. Williamson, Dr. R. B. Cotton, F. Nash, Jno. C. Gordon, Andrew Martin, T. C. Johnstone, R. B. Ferguson, ... A. Whitmore, Dr. J. H. C. Willoughby, J. H. C. Coyne, F. Arnold, T. Crapper, A Friend, G. T. Mars..., J. M. Creamer W... Laurie, F. H. Paget, C. J. Johnson, E. C. Stewart, Jn ... A. Reid, ... A. Mitchell, A. E. Forget, N.J. H. Campbe... O. Bourget, H. ... Carruthers

125 kb

1892 – Sept. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"Messrs Joshua Thompson and Harry Gibberish of Indian Head were charged by Mr. WB Sheppard (manager of the Alliance Farm) on Sept 8 with stealing two sheaves of wheat from Major Bell's field." Tried before Magistrates Thompson and Boyce. Acquitted. Evidence showed that two parties had an argument about the quality of the grain and secured two sheaves to settle the dispute. Mr. Wm Smith for the defence.

1892 – Supreme Court of the NWT – Law Suits

SAB File	Microfiche Box Reference	District Court / Supreme Court of NWT	Conflicting Parties	Year(s)	Comments
2385	N 09	SCNWT 228/92	J.A. & M. Cote Vs. A.J. Osment	1892	

1892 – Oct. 1 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Good overview report on Indian Head Farms: Bell, Brassey, Experimental, Alliance - and of the Bell Flour Mill

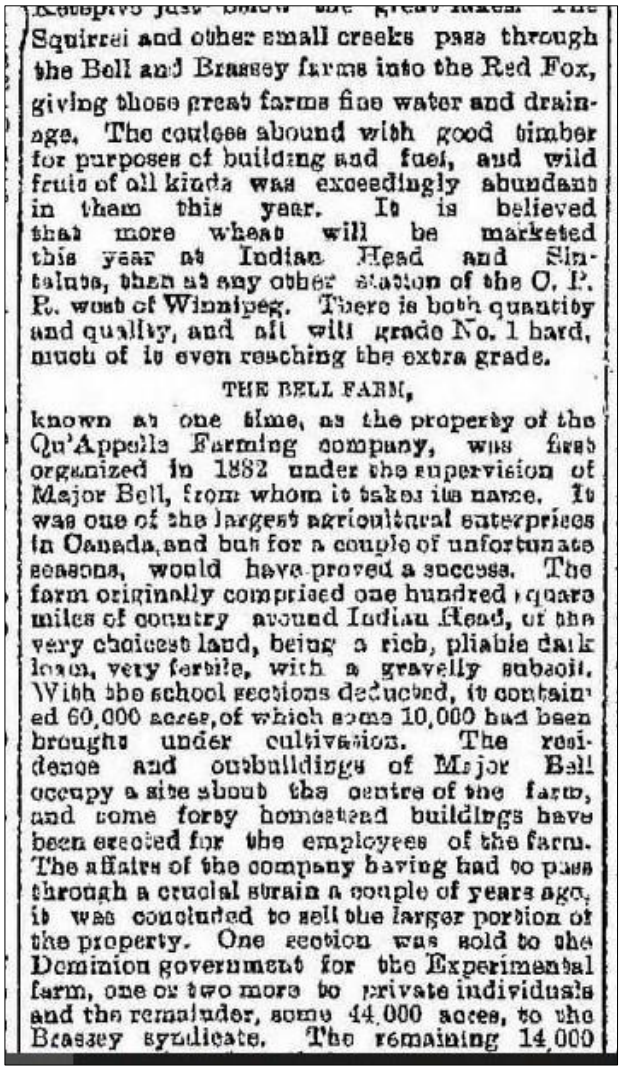
INDIAN HEAD CROPS.

THE WHEAT GARDEN OF THE NORTH-WEST.

Bell and Other Mammoth Farms—Experimental Farm—Fuel and Water Abundant—Good Resort for Sportsmen.

Indian Head is the centre of one of the finest agricultural areas in either Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, being a veritable wheat garden. The mammoth farm schemes are being largely developed here, and the district, from its undulating character and the number of small streams and coulees flowing through it, give it advantages not possessed by other localities. This natural drainage, together with the facilities for obtaining water for stock, make it a desirable place for settlement. Well water can be had almost everywhere at a depth of 20 to 25 feet. The Fox creek which takes its rise in the Hurricane Hills a short distance south of Indian Head wanders through the entire region entering the Qu'Appelle river near Katepiva just below the great lakes. The

Part 1 of 7 (142 kb)

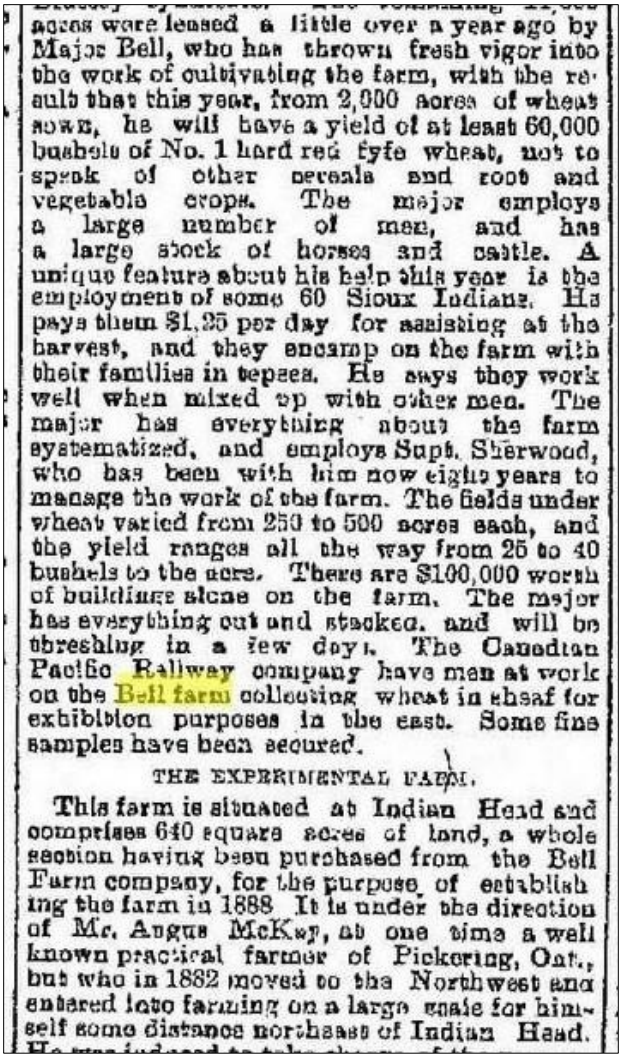


Squirrel and other small creeks pass through the Bell and Brassey farms into the Red Fox, giving those great farms fine water and drainage. The coulees abound with good timber for purposes of building and fuel, and wild fruits of all kinds was exceedingly abundant in them this year. It is believed that more wheat will be marketed this year at Indian Head and Sintaluta, than at any other station of the C. P. R. west of Winnipeg. There is both quantity and quality, and all will grade No. 1 hard, much of it even reaching the extra grade.

THE BELL FARM,

known at one time, as the property of the Qu'Appelle Farming company, was first organized in 1882 under the supervision of Major Bell, from whom it takes its name. It was one of the largest agricultural enterprises in Canada, and but for a couple of unfortunate seasons, would have proved a success. The farm originally comprised one hundred square miles of country around Indian Head, of the very choicest land, being a rich, pliable dark loam, very fertile, with a gravelly subsoil. With the school sections deducted, it contained 60,000 acres, of which some 10,000 had been brought under cultivation. The residence and outbuildings of Major Bell occupy a site about the centre of the farm, and some forty homestead buildings have been erected for the employees of the farm. The affairs of the company having had to pass through a crucial strain a couple of years ago, it was concluded to sell the larger portion of the property. One section was sold to the Dominion government for the Experimental farm, one or two more to private individuals and the remainder, some 44,000 acres, to the Brassey syndicate. The remaining 14,000

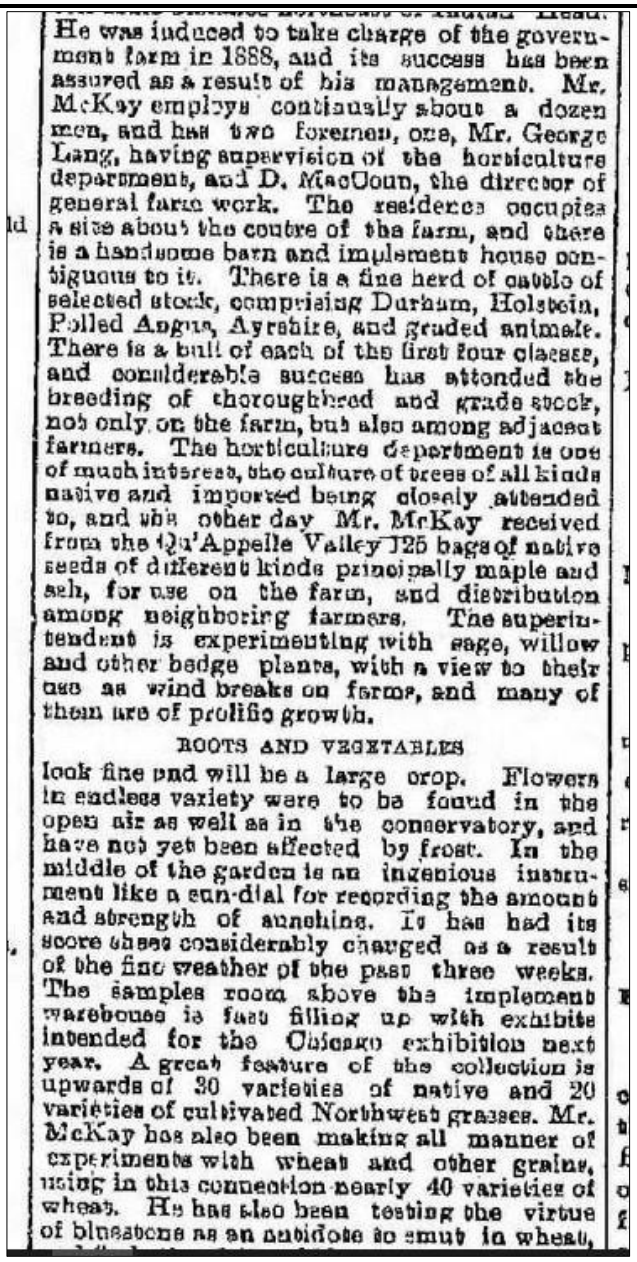
Part 2 of 7 (181 kb)



acres were leased a little over a year ago by Major Bell, who has thrown fresh vigor into the work of cultivating the farm, with the result that this year, from 2,000 acres of wheat sown, he will have a yield of at least 60,000 bushels of No. 1 hard red fyfe wheat, not to speak of other cereals and root and vegetable crops. The major employs a large number of men, and has a large stock of horses and cattle. A unique feature about his help this year is the employment of some 60 Sioux Indians. He pays them $1.25 per day for assisting at the harvest, and they encamp on the farm with their families in tepees. He says they work well when mixed up with other men. The major has everything about the farm systematized, and employs Supt. Sherwood, who has been with him now eight years to manage the work of the farm. The fields under wheat varied from 250 to 500 acres each, and the yield ranges all the way from 25 to 40 bushels to the acre. There are $100,000 worth of buildings alone on the farm. The major has everything cut and stacked, and will be threshing in a few days. The Canadian Pacific Railway company have men at work on the Bell farm collecting wheat in sheaf for exhibition purposes in the east. Some fine samples have been secured.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

This farm is situated at Indian Head and comprises 640 square acres of land, a whole section having been purchased from the Bell Farm company, for the purpose of establishing the farm in 1888. It is under the direction of Mr. Angus McKay, at one time a well known practical farmer of Pickering, Ont., but who in 1882 moved to the Northwest and entered into farming on a large scale for himself some distance northeast of Indian Head.



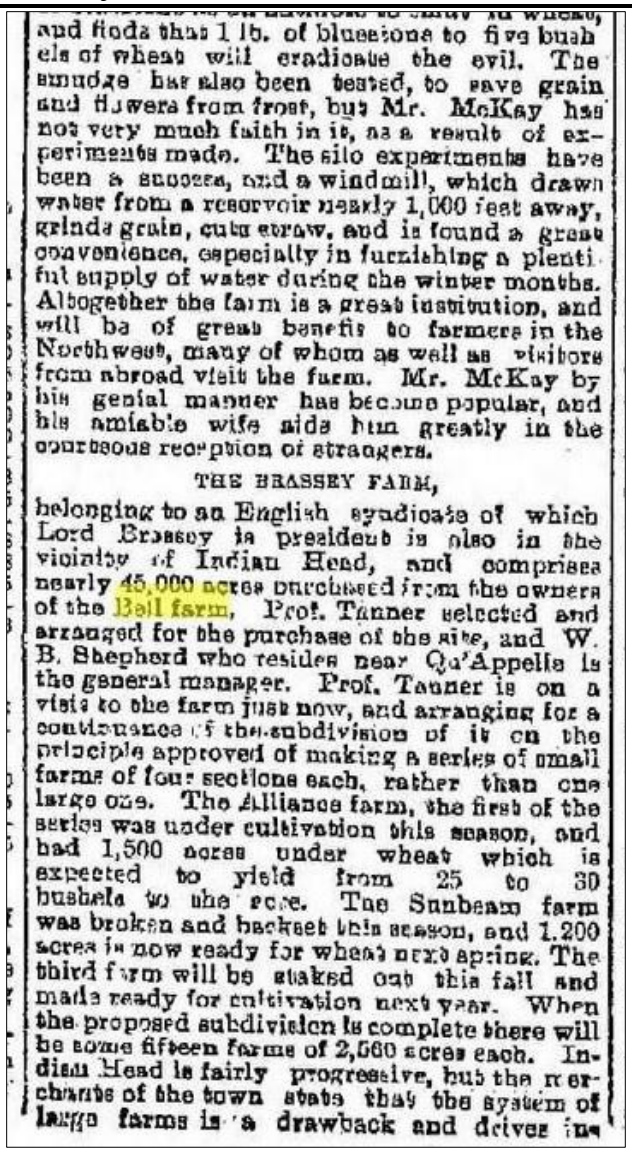
He was induced to take charge of the government farm in 1888, and its success has been assured as a result of his management. Mr. McKay employs continually about a dozen men, and has two foremen, one, Mr. George Lang, having supervision of the horticulture department, and D. MacCoun, the director of general farm work. The residence occupies a site about the centre of the farm, and there is a handsome barn and implement house contiguous to it. There is a fine herd of cattle of selected stock, comprising Durham, Holstein, Polled Angus, Ayrshire, and graded animals. There is a bull of each of the first four classes, and considerable success has attended the breeding of thoroughbred and grade stock, not only on the farm, but also among adjacent farmers. The horticulture department is one of much interest, the culture of trees of all kinds native and imported being closely attended to, and the other day Mr. McKay received from the Qu'Appelle Valley 125 bags of native seeds of different kinds principally maple and ash, for use on the farm, and distribution among neighboring farmers. The superintendent is experimenting with sage, willow and other hedge plants, with a view to their use as wind breaks on farms, and many of them are of prolific growth.

ROOTS AND VEGETABLES

look fine and will be a large crop. Flowers in endless variety were to be found in the open air as well as in the conservatory, and have not yet been affected by frost. In the middle of the garden is an ingenious instrument like a sun-dial for recording the amount and strength of sunshine. It has had its score chest considerably changed as a result of the fine weather of the past three weeks. The samples room above the implement warehouse is fast filling up with exhibits intended for the Chicago exhibition next year. A great feature of the collection is upwards of 30 varieties of native and 20 varieties of cultivated Northwest grasses. Mr. McKay has also been making all manner of experiments with wheat and other grains, using in this connection nearly 40 varieties of wheat. He has also been testing the virtue of bluestone as an antidote to smut in wheat,

Part 3 of 7 (183 kb)

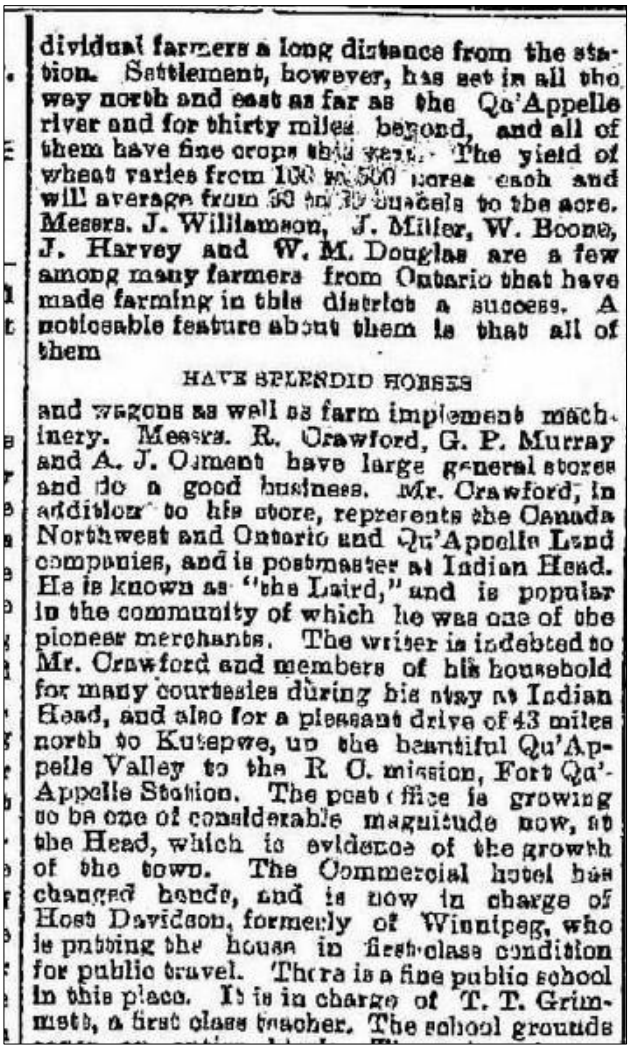
Part 4 of 7 (212 kb)



and finds that 1 lb. of bluestone to five bushels of wheat will eradicate the evil. The smudge has also been tested, to save grain and flowers from frost, but Mr. McKay has not very much faith in it, as a result of experiments made. The silo experiments have been a success, and a windmill, which draws water from a reservoir nearly 1,000 feet away, grinds grain, cuts straw, and is found a great convenience, especially in furnishing a plentiful supply of water during the winter months. Altogether the farm is a great institution, and will be of great benefit to farmers in the Northwest, many of whom as well as visitors from abroad visit the farm. Mr. McKay by his genial manner has become popular, and his amiable wife aids him greatly in the courteous reception of strangers.

THE BRASSEY FARM,

belonging to an English syndicate of which Lord Brassey is president is also in the vicinity of Indian Head, and comprises nearly 45,000 acres purchased from the owners of the Bell farm. Prof. Tanner selected and arranged for the purchase of the site, and W. B. Shepherd who resides near Qu'Appelle is the general manager. Prof. Tanner is on a visit to the farm just now, and arranging for a continuance of the subdivision of it on the principle approved of making a series of small farms of four sections each, rather than one large one. The Alliance farm, the first of the series was under cultivation this season, and had 1,500 acres under wheat which is expected to yield from 25 to 30 bushels to the acre. The Sunbeam farm was broken and backset this season, and 1,200 acres is now ready for wheat next spring. The third farm will be staked out this fall and made ready for cultivation next year. When the proposed subdivision is complete there will be some fifteen farms of 2,560 acres each. Indian Head is fairly progressive, but the merchants of the town state that the system of large farms is a drawback and drives in-



dividual farmers a long distance from the station. Settlement, however, has set in all the way north and east as far as the Qu'Appelle river and for thirty miles beyond, and all of them have fine crops this year. The yield of wheat varies from 100 to 500 acres each and will average from 30 to 35 bushels to the acre. Messrs. J. Williamson, J. Miller, W. Boone, J. Harvey and W. M. Douglas are a few among many farmers from Ontario that have made farming in this district a success. A noticeable feature about them is that all of them

HAVE SPLENDID HORSES

and wagons as well as farm implement machinery. Messrs. R. Crawford, G. P. Murray and A. J. Ozment have large general stores and do a good business. Mr. Crawford, in addition to his store, represents the Canada Northwest and Ontario and Qu'Appelle Land companies, and is postmaster at Indian Head. He is known as "the Laird," and is popular in the community of which he was one of the pioneer merchants. The writer is indebted to Mr. Crawford and members of his household for many courtesies during his stay at Indian Head, and also for a pleasant drive of 43 miles north to Kutepwe, up the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley to the R. C. mission, Fort Qu'Appelle Station. The post office is growing to be one of considerable magnitude now, at the Head, which is evidence of the growth of the town. The Commercial hotel has changed hands, and is now in charge of Host Davidson, formerly of Winnipeg, who is putting the house in first-class condition for public travel. There is a fine public school in this place. It is in charge of T. T. Grimmett, a first class teacher. The school grounds

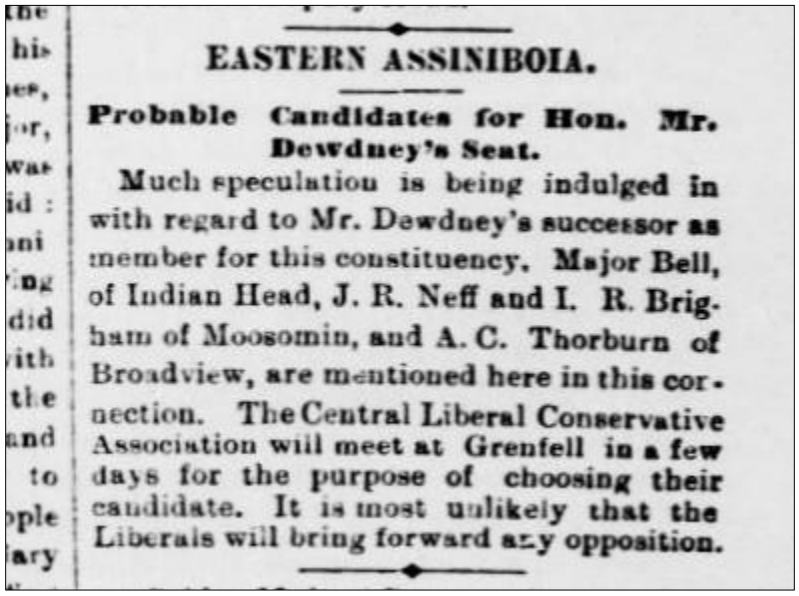
Part 5 of 7 (192 kb)

Part 6 of 7 (177 kb)

cover an entire block. There is only one church in the town, that of the Presbyterian body. It is a neat edifice of brick and comfortably seated. The pastor is Rev. J. K. Welsh, a recent arrival from Scotland, who seems to be an earnest and practical preacher. The Methodists hold service in the town hall on Sunday afternoons, and members of the Church of England worship in the same place on Sunday evenings. Major Bell has a fine roller mill at the depot with a capacity for manufacturing 150 barrels of flour per day, and an elevator adjoining that will hold 35,000 bushels of wheat, that of D. H. McMillan & Co 25,000, and Brassey's 25,000 bushels. Ogilvie's elevator at Sintaluta, the next station, has a capacity for storing 35,000 bushels. The excursions around Indian Head are numerous. Driving around the big farms is a favorite pastime. The Squirrel Hills full of numerous springs of clear water, the Indian Head hills, and Hurricane hills all south of the village, are well worthy of a visit, as also the beautiful Qu'Appelle valley to the north. Tourists going to the territories will be amply repaid by taking a look at the country around Indian Head.

Part 7 of 7 (143 kb)

1892 – Oct. 26 – *Lethbridge News*, p. 1 – Bell to possibly replace Dewdney in House of Commons



EASTERN ASSINIBOIA.

Probable Candidates for Hon. Mr. Dewdney's Seat.

Much speculation is being indulged in with regard to Mr. Dewdney's successor as member for this constituency. Major Bell, of Indian Head, J. R. Neff and I. R. Brigham of Moosomin, and A. C. Thorburn of Broadview, are mentioned here in this connection. The Central Liberal Conservative Association will meet at Grenfell in a few days for the purpose of choosing their candidate. It is most unlikely that the Liberals will bring forward any opposition.

1892 – Oct. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 4 – Major Bell at Indian Head Rifle Assoc shooting meet

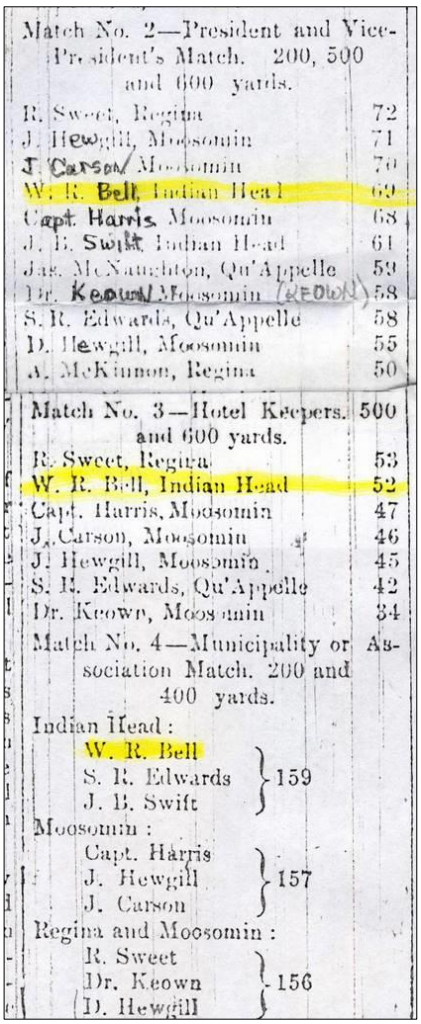
[First annual meeting of the Indian Head Rifle Association held Oct. 12 and 13]

INDIAN HEAD RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of the Indian Head Rifle Association was held at the range on Wednesday and Thursday, 12th and 13th, riflemen from Regina, Moosomin, Qu'Appelle and other neighboring towns participating. The weather, although threatening for some days previous, turned out fine, with the exception of high winds, which doubtless reduced the scores. The meeting was opened by Mrs. Major Bell, and was conducted throughout in a manner which gave the utmost satisfaction. Major Bell acted as range officer, and from his promptitude and decisiveness, coupled with his affable manner when among the boys, rendered the meeting a decided success. The association purpose improving the range and getting it in shape to make their meeting next year equal to if not greater than this, and hope to have all who took part this year to meet again in friendly rivalry on the range, besides many others. Below is a list of the prize winners with the scores.

Match No. 1—Nursery. 200 yards.

D. Hewgill, Moosomin	27
W. M. Crawford, Indian Head	25
D. B. Macoun, Indian Head	22
A. McKinnon, Regina	21
J. McNaughton, Qu'Appelle	20
Jas. Conn, Indian Head	20
D. G. McKay, Indian Head	19
Jas. Brooks, Indian Head	18



Match No. 2—President and Vice-President's Match. 200, 500 and 600 yards.

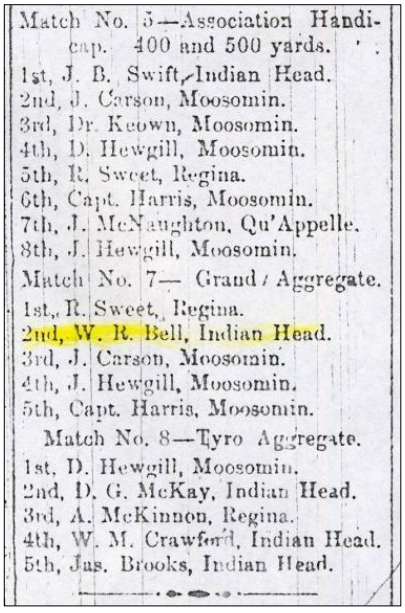
R. Sweet, Regina	72
J. Hewgill, Moosomin	71
J. Carson, Moosomin	70
W. R. Bell, Indian Head	69
Capt. Harris, Moosomin	68
J. B. Swift, Indian Head	61
Jas. McNaughton, Qu'Appelle	59
Dr. Keown, Moosomin (KEOWN)	58
S. R. Edwards, Qu'Appelle	58
D. Hewgill, Moosomin	55
A. McKinnon, Regina	50

Match No. 3—Hotel Keepers. 500 and 600 yards.

R. Sweet, Regina	53
W. R. Bell, Indian Head	52
Capt. Harris, Moosomin	47
J. Carson, Moosomin	46
J. Hewgill, Moosomin	45
S. R. Edwards, Qu'Appelle	42
Dr. Keown, Moosomin	34

Match No. 4—Municipality or Association Match. 200 and 400 yards.

Indian Head: W. R. Bell, S. R. Edwards, J. B. Swift	159
Moosomin: Capt. Harris, J. Hewgill, J. Carson	157
Regina and Moosomin: R. Sweet, Dr. Keown, D. Hewgill	156



Match No. 5—Association Handicap. 400 and 500 yards.

1st, J. B. Swift, Indian Head.
2nd, J. Carson, Moosomin.
3rd, Dr. Keown, Moosomin.
4th, D. Hewgill, Moosomin.
5th, R. Sweet, Regina.
6th, Capt. Harris, Moosomin.
7th, J. McNaughton, Qu'Appelle.
8th, J. Hewgill, Moosomin.

Match No. 7— Grand Aggregate.

1st, R. Sweet, Regina.
2nd, W. R. Bell, Indian Head.
3rd, J. Carson, Moosomin.
4th, J. Hewgill, Moosomin.
5th, Capt. Harris, Moosomin.

Match No. 8—Tyro Aggregate.

1st, D. Hewgill, Moosomin.
2nd, D. G. McKay, Indian Head.
3rd, A. McKinnon, Regina.
4th, W. M. Crawford, Indian Head.
5th, Jas. Brooks, Indian Head.

421 kb 380 kb 271 kb

1892 – Oct. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"Local Happenings (in Fort Qu'Appelle): Major Bell was here on a shooting expedition beginning of the week."

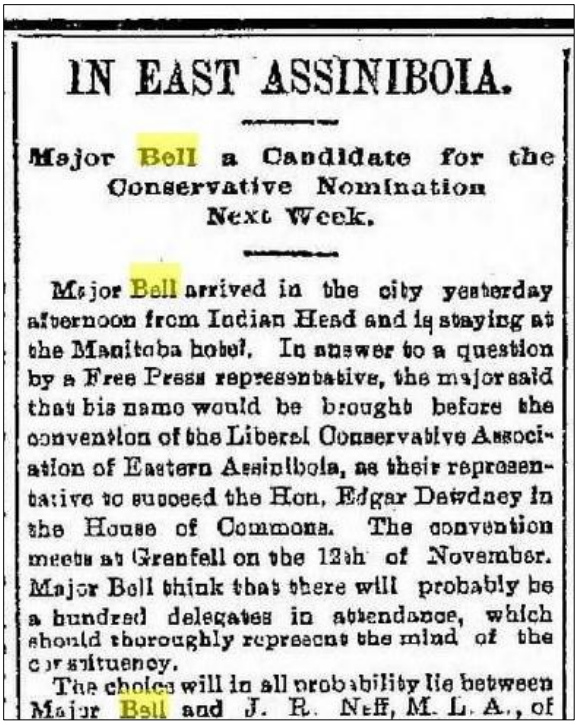
1892 – Oct. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4

"Major Bell of Indian Head was in town on Friday last."

1892 – Oct. 31 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1 – Major Bell to run in election

"The writ has been issued for the East Assiniboia election, which will take place on November 28th. Major Bell says he will run as the Tory candidate."

1892 – Oct. 31 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 8 – Major Bell to run in East Assiniboia election



IN EAST ASSINIBOIA.

Major Bell a Candidate for the Conservative Nomination Next Week.

Major Bell arrived in the city yesterday afternoon from Indian Head and is staying at the Manitoba hotel. In answer to a question by a Free Press representative, the major said that his name would be brought before the convention of the Liberal Conservative Association of Eastern Assiniboia, as their representative to succeed the Hon. Edgar Dewdney in the House of Commons. The convention meets at Grenfell on the 12th of November. Major Bell think that there will probably be a hundred delegates in attendance, which should thoroughly represent the mind of the constituency.

The choice will in all probability lie between Major Bell and J. R. Neff, M. L. A., of Moosomin, though the names of Messrs. A. G. Thorburn, of Broadview, and B. P. Richardson, of Grenfell, may be brought forward. The contest in the convention, if one arises, will be the eastern part of the constituency against the western; but it is not certain yet whether Mr. Neff will allow his name to be brought before the convention, for he is at present a prominent and important figure in the Northwest Assembly. It will be remembered he was a member of Mr. Haultain's late advisory council. The position of affairs in the Territories may be affected by the coming election in Wallace, when if the Haultain candidate, Mr. Insinger, is returned, Mr. Cayley may be forced to resign, and Mr. Haultain, with a majority of two, may be again called on to form a Government, of which Mr. Neff might be wanted as lieutenant.

Major Bell says he has already been asked to make promises with the conditional promise of support, but he had replied: "I am not going in on promises, but I hope to go out with fulfilments." The major further stated that he was not anxious for a political life for the sake of politics, but he believed that if he was sent to Ottawa he could worthily represent the interests of Eastern Assiniboia, and that he would feel his main mission to be that of an apostle of a vigorous immigration policy.

Apparently there is no probability of the Liberals contesting the election.

1892 – Oct. 31 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 5 –

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, arrived yesterday from the west.. . . . " – check for details

1892 – 1 Nov. – *Victoria Daily Colonist*: p. 1
http://archive.org/stream/dailycolonist18921101uvic/18921101#page/n0/mode/1up/search/indian+head"

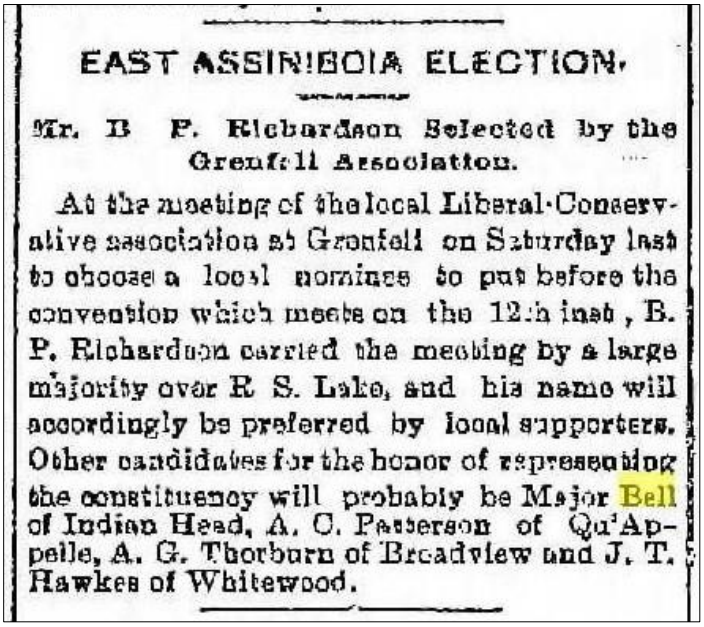
"Politics in Manitoba. – Winnipeg, Oct. 31. It is reported that ex-Attorney-General Martin will oppose Hon. Mr. Daly in Selkirk, although sections of the Liberals do not favour any opposition. R. Daly arrives here to morrow. Major Bell, of Indian Head, will probably be the conservative candidate for East Assiniboia."

1892 – Nov 3 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Chesterton's painting of Brassey townsite, for Tanner

"**BRASSEY, N.W.T.** The *Free Press* says W. Chesterton, architect of this city, has prepared for Professor Tanner, general manager of the Brassey farms, a bird's eye view of Brassey, which it is the intention of the directors to build, south of the C.P.R. track opposite the village of Indian Head. The proposed town is to be beautifully laid out and, _____ the buildings proposed are a church, parsonage, and hospital, fine stores and business blocks, and several rows of houses and cottages for those employed on the estate. The picture is an imposing one, representing as it

does a model little town. In the background lie some of the cultivated lands of the company.
[Frank's Note: painting might include the Bell Farm in the background.]

1892 – Nov. 9 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 8 – Bell might run for East Assiniboia election



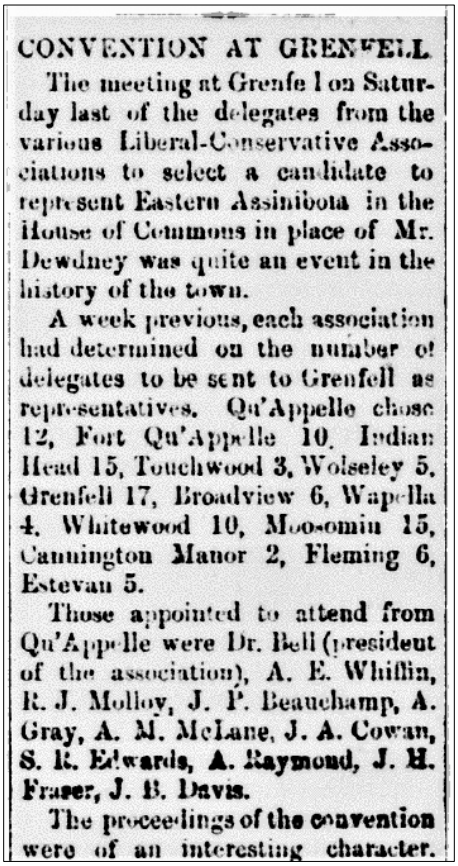
EAST ASSINIBOIA ELECTION.

Mr. B P. Richardson Selected by the Grenfell Association.

At the meeting of the local Liberal-Conservative association at Grenfell on Saturday last to choose a local nominee to put before the convention which meets on the 12th inst, B. P. Richardson carried the meeting by a large majority over R S. Lake, and his name will accordingly be preferred by local supporters. Other candidates for the honor of representing the constituency will probably be Major Bell of Indian Head, A. C. Patterson of Qu'Appelle, A. G. Thorburn of Broadview and J. T. Hawkes of Whitewood.

135 kb

1892 – Nov. 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* p. 1 – Bell unsuccessful in East Assiniboia election run



CONVENTION AT GRENFELL.

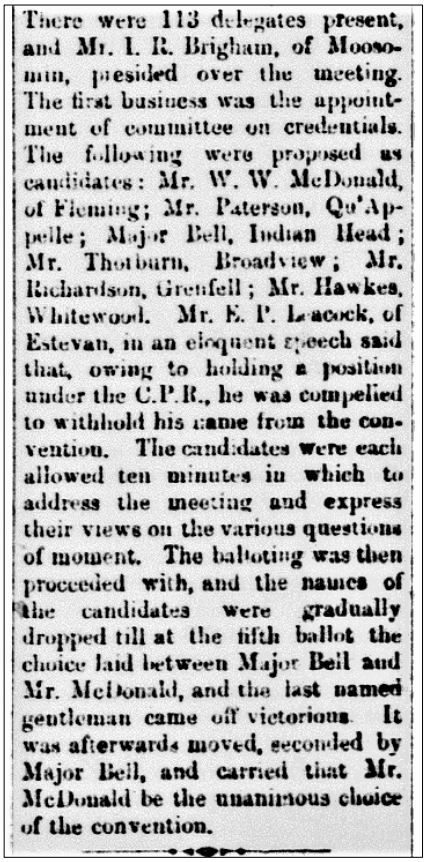
The meeting at Grenfell on Saturday last of the delegates from the various Liberal-Conservative Associations to select a candidate to represent Eastern Assiniboia in the House of Commons in place of Mr. Dewdney was quite an event in the history of the town.

A week previous, each association had determined on the number of delegates to be sent to Grenfell as representatives. Qu'Appelle chose 12, Fort Qu'Appelle 10, Indian Head 15, Touchwood 3, Wolseley 5, Grenfell 17, Broadview 6, Wapella 4, Whitewood 10, Moosomin 15, Cannington Manor 2, Fleming 6, Estevan 5.

Those appointed to attend from Qu'Appelle were Dr. Bell (president of the association), A. E. Whiffin, R. J. Molloy, J. P. Beauchamp, A. Gray, A. M. McLane, J. A. Cowan, S. R. Edwards, A. Raymond, J. H. Fraser, J. B. Davis.

The proceedings of the convention were of an interesting character.

211 kb



There were 113 delegates present, and Mr. I. R. Brigham, of Moosomin, presided over the meeting. The first business was the appointment of committee on credentials. The following were proposed as candidates: Mr. W. W. McDonald, of Fleming; Mr. Paterson, Qu'Appelle; Major Bell, Indian Head; Mr. Thorburn, Broadview; Mr. Richardson, Grenfell; Mr. Hawkes, Whitewood. Mr. E. P. Leacock, of Estevan, in an eloquent speech said that, owing to holding a position under the C.P.R., he was compelled to withhold his name from the convention. The candidates were each allowed ten minutes in which to address the meeting and express their views on the various questions of moment. The balloting was then proceeded with, and the names of the candidates were gradually dropped till at the fifth ballot the choice laid between Major Bell and Mr. McDonald, and the last named gentleman came off victorious. It was afterwards moved, seconded by Major Bell, and carried that Mr. McDonald be the unanimous choice of the convention.

233 kb

1892 – Nov. 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 5 – Major Bell at the Manitoba Hotel

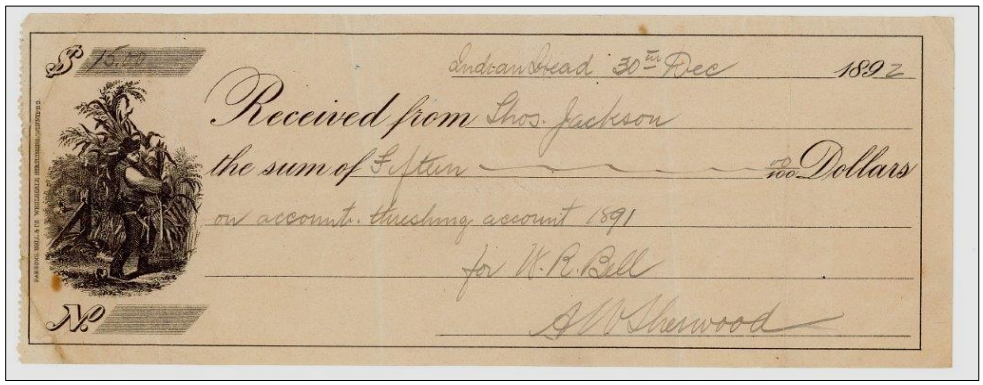
> " AT THE CITY HOTELS - . . . . . Major W.R. Bell, Indian Head; . . . ."

1892 – Dec. 5 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5

> "Major Bell, of Indian Head, arrived yesterday from west and registered at the Manitoba. . . ." – check for details

1892 – Dec. 30 – Major Bell receives $15 from Thomas E. Jackson for threshing done in 1891.

(Source: Prov. Archives of Sask. Thomas I. Jackson collection, PR 18-121)

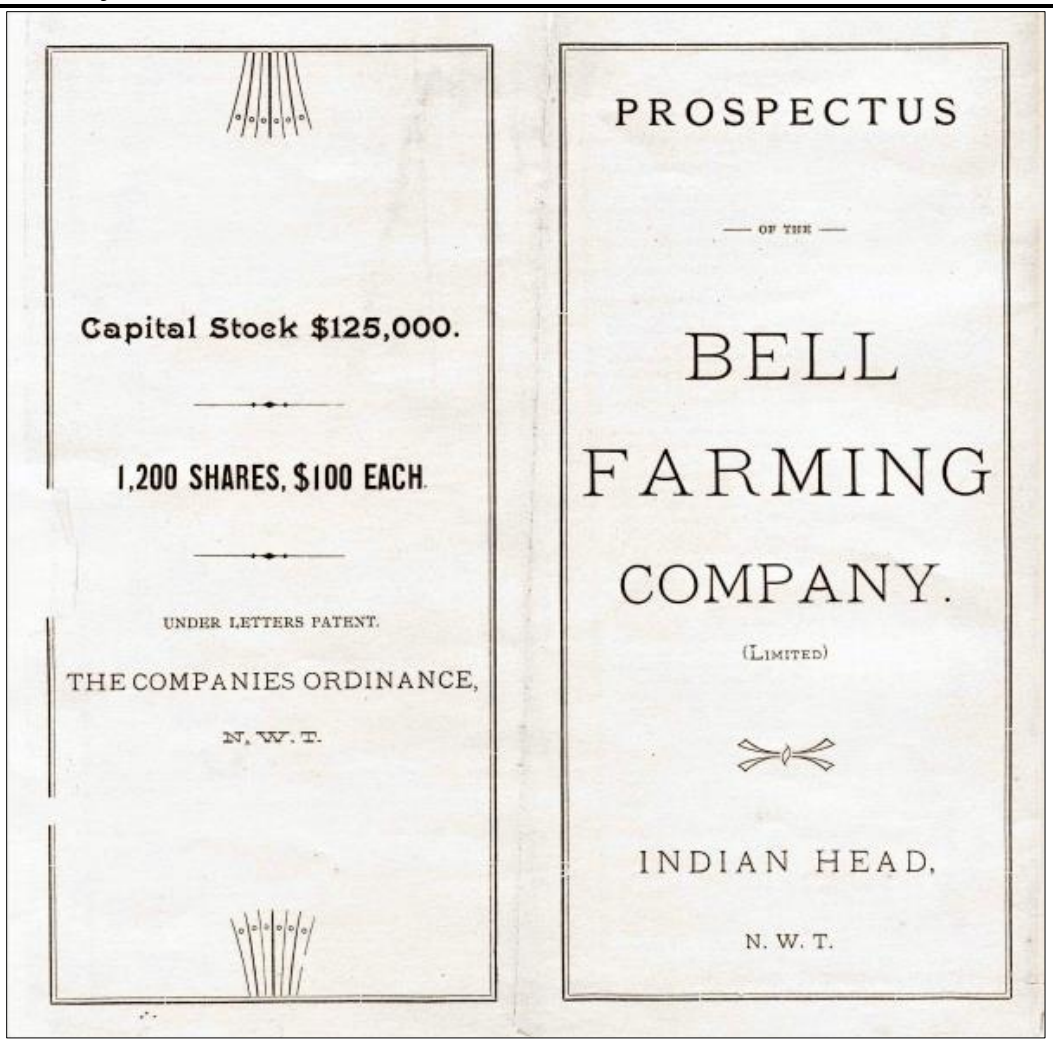


1892 – Dec. 31 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 4 – Bell in Winnipeg

> "Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in the city."

1893

1893 – Prospectus for the Bell Farming Company – based on data from 1882-1892



Capital Stock $125,000.

1,200 SHARES, $100 EACH.

UNDER LETTERS PATENT.

THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE,

N. W. T.

PROSPECTUS

— OF THE —

BELL

FARMING

COMPANY.

(LIMITED)

INDIAN HEAD,

N. W. T.

292 kb

p. 8 p. 1

PROSPECTUS.

Ten year's experience has shewn the fact that the future supply of high grade wheat to meet the wants of Great Britain will be drawn from the vast fertile fields of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

The results of the experience of those who have been directly engaged in farming not only go to prove the capacity of the soil of the Canadian Northwest but have enabled those interested to arrive at an actual foundation of facts and figures in every detail, shewing clearly the average cost of production and the percentage of profit realized upon the operations.

When the country was first opened up for settlement, through the completion of that grand transcontinental highway, the Canadian Pacific Railway, attempts were made to farm on a scale commensurate with the vastness of vision that contemplated a field of operations stretching unbroken one thousand miles from east to west, but time and experience have narrowed these operations to a basis of acreage over which a manager can exercise the fullest supervision, practise the strictest economy in working and earn the very best results. The limit over which the most successful supervision may be exercised is found to be the yearly yield from 3,000 to 4,000 acres.

During the past five years Mr. W. R. Bell has farmed a portion of the property at one time belonging to the Qu'-Appelle Valley Farming Company (limited) and purchased by him in the year 1888 and since then worked by him individually. His net profits during that period have averaged annually ten dollars per acre on an average acreage of 1,450 acres. There are now ready for crop 1,800 acres of summer-fallow.

This acreage, profitable as it has been, is not sufficient to give full employment to himself and staff and provide adequately to meet the demands upon him which are necessarily the result of the position in which he finds himself.

The property consists of 11,815 acres—almost *en bloc*—lying adjacent to the Town of Indian Head and the Experimental Farm operated by the Dominion Government.

The present value of this land, as appears by the tabulated list presented elsewhere, is estimated—including the cost of preparing the 1,800 acres now ready for crop—at $161,202
The stock, implements and plant at 30,090

A total value of $191,292

Upon this land, including dwellings, storehouses and granaries, there is a mortgage debt of $115,000 leaving the nett interest of the proprietor to be $76,292.

To meet the demands of the mortgagees, The Scottish American Investment Company, of Edinburgh, Scotland, who desire the sum of $30,000 to be paid on account and thereby reduce the advance to $85,000, or to a sum about one-half the value of the land, and in order to raise the further sum of $35,000 to be used as working capital, the following proposition is made; it being settled and understood that the whole property now held by W. R. Bell under Certificates of Ownership (Torrens title) together with all the plant as enumerated will be transferred free of any encumbrance, other than that mentioned; and it also being understood that upon receipt of the $30,000 on account as already stated, the Scottish American Investment Company will accept a new mortgage for $85,000 at five per cent payable in five years.

The proposition is:

To form a Company to be known as "The Company (Limited)" with a share capital of $125,000 in 1,250 shares of $100.00 each.

Of this stock, the Company so formed under Letters Patent granted under the Ordinance entitled "The Companies Ordinance" is to issue to W. R. Bell 600 shares, fully paid up, as in full of his entire interest as before stated at $76,292, leaving 650 shares to be subscribed for and from the proceeds of which, at par, is to be paid the $30,000 to the Scottish American Investment Company, required before the 1st day of June next and leaving the remainder to secure the $35,000 working capital.

Mr. Bell to remain in the capacity of Manager under the direction of the Board at a salary of $3,000 per annum, which sum is also to cover the wages of a book-keeper.

The following estimates have been carefully prepared and bear out fully, and are based on the actual results, of the past five years. These, in brief, show the *total receipts* during the coming five years, say, from the 1st January 1893 to 1st January 1898 to be $294,975

The total expenditure, per estimates are:

Current Account including interest		
On mortgage debt	$117,525	
On capital account	20,000	
5 yearly dividends at 7 per cent on $125,000	43,750	
Mortgage debt paid	85,000	
Balance cash on hand	27,800	
	$294,975	$294,975

At the end of five years' operations the Company will stand in the following position:

Value of real property and plant .	$191,292
Expenditure on Capital Account .	20,900
Cash on hand	27,800
	$239,992
Liabilities (Capital Stock)	125,000
To credit of Profit and Loss	$114,992

The realty may be expected to increase rapidly in value and during the currency of the peroid spoken of, six sections and two portions known as Sections 22 and 28, township 18, range 13, section 33, township 18, range 13, sections 33, 17, 21 and 22, township 18, range 12, and section 3, township 19, range 13, may be sold and realised on leaving some 7,000 acres, *the best and most compact farm tract in the Dominion of Canada* as the field for future operation.

The profit per acre is easily seen from the following:—Deduct from gross receipts $294,975, the gross expenditure $117,525 leaves the gross profit to be $177,450. The acreage of first year is 2,000, of the next four years 3,500 each, an average of 3,200 acres per year or a total acreage in five years of 16,000—that is a trifle less than $11.00 per acre per year.

399 kb

AVERAGE PER ACRE OF WHEAT.		AVERAGE OF PRICES.	
1888	28 bushels	1888	per bush. $1.05
1889	21 "	1889	" 72
1890	18 "	1890	" 55
1891	38 "	1891	" 52
1892	17 "	1892	" 52
5)	122	5)	336
	25 bushels		67c

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE 1893.

Current Accounts			
Seed	$2,200		
Oats 5,000 bush. 25 cts.	1,250		
Hay 50 tons $5	250		
Labor $875 per mo. 9 mos	7,875		
Maintenance	1,000		
Salaries	2,000		
Twine	400		
Insurance and taxes	700		
500 pigs	1,000	$16,675	
Interest on mortgage		4,500	$21,175
Capital Account			
Horses 32 at $150.00	$4,800		
Implements	3,000		7,800
			$28,975

3,000 acres fallowed for wheat and 500 acres ploughed for oats.

ESTIMATED INCOME 1893.

Wheat 1,800 acres 25 bush. per acre—45,000 at 67c	$30,150	
Oats, 200 acres 45 bush. per acre—9,000 at 25c.	2,250	
Hogs 500, 175 lbs each, 6	5,250	
Hay 100 tons at $5	500	
Colts, 20 increase	1,000	$39,150

Estimated yield and prices are the average of the past five years.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE 1894.

Current Account			
Seed	$3,000		
Stable maintenance	1,600		
Labor $1,000 per mo. 9 mo	9,000		
Maintenance	1,000		
Salaries	2,000		
Twine	650		
Insurance and taxes	700		
500 pigs	1,000	$18,950	
Interest on mortgage		4,500	$23,450
Capital Account			
10 binders $140	$1,400		
Repairs to other machinery	500		
Harness	300		
Repairs to buildings, etc,	1,000		3,200
			$26,650

ESTIMATED INCOME 1894.

Wheat 3,000 acres at 25 bush. 75,000 bushels at 67 cts	$50,250	
Oats 500 acres, 25,000 bush., 25	6,250	
Colts, 25 at $50	1,250	
Hay, 100 tons at $3	300	
Hogs, 500, 175 lbs each at 6c	5,250	$63,300

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE 1895.

Seed	$3,000		
Stable maintenance	2,000		
Labor $1,000 per mo. 9 mos	9,000		
Maintenance	1,200		
Salaries	2,000		
Twine	700		
Insurance and taxes	700		
500 pigs	1,000	$19,800	
Interest on mortgage		4,500	$24,300
Capital Account			
Implement Account	2,000		
Harness	300		
Repairs to building, etc	1,000	3,300	
		$27,600	

ESTIMATED INCOME 1895.

Wheat, 3,000 acres at 25 bush. 75,000 bushels at 67 cts.	$50,250	
Oats and barley, 500 acres	6,000	
Colts, 25 at $50	1,250	
" increase in value of '93 and '94	1,125	
Hogs, 500	5,250	
Hay, 100 tons	300	$64,175

3,000 acres fallowed for crop and 500 acres ploughed for oats

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE 1896.

Same as 1895 . . . . . $27,600

ESTIMATED INCOME 1896.

Same as 1895 . . . . . $64,175

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE 1897.

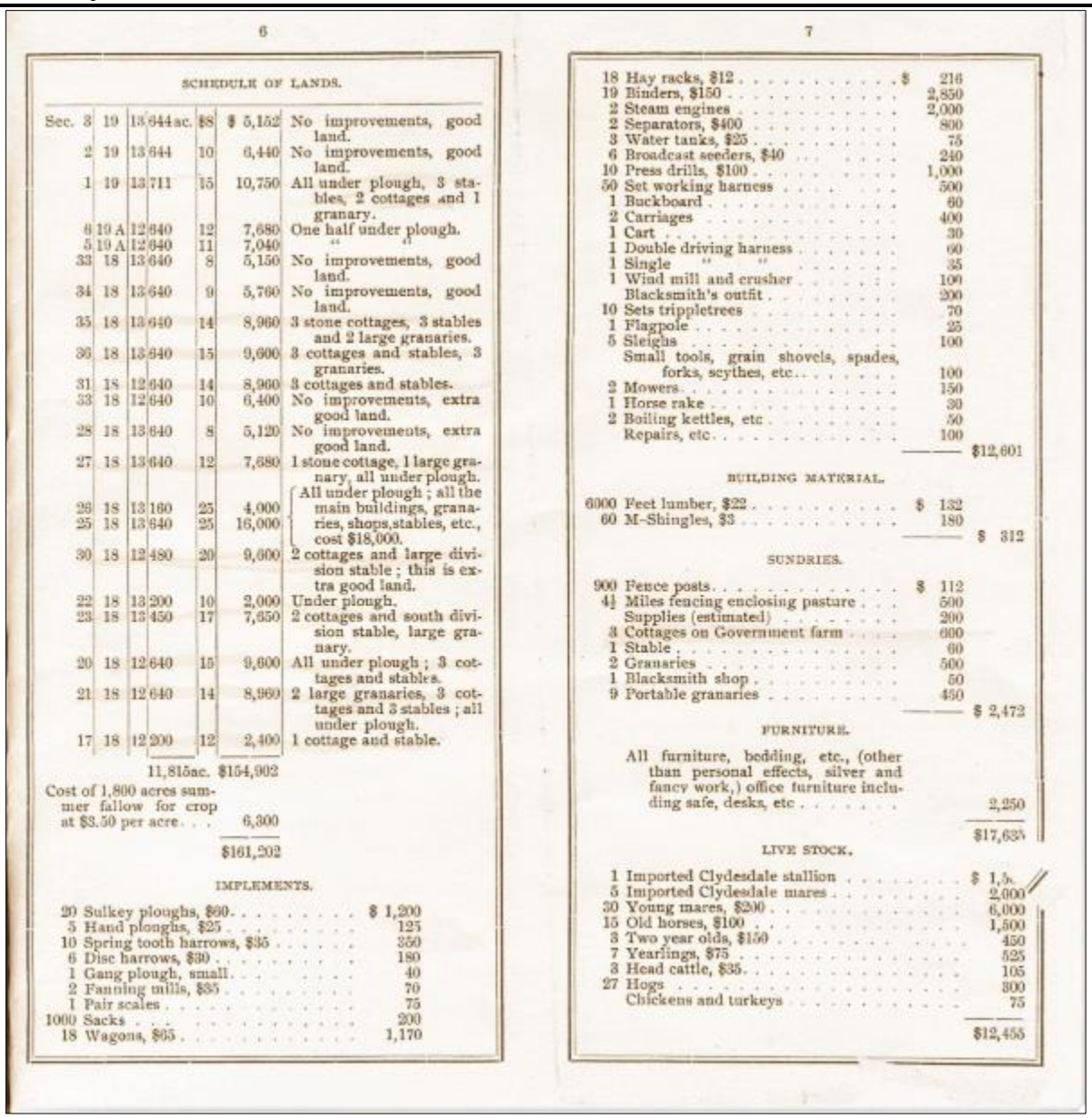
Same as 1895 . . . . . $27,600

ESTIMATED INCOME 1897.

Same as 1895 . . . . . $64,175

The Union Bank, Winnipeg, has consented to act as trustees, and will receive all subscriptions for stock pending the formation of the Company.

326 kb



6

SCHEDULE OF LANDS.

Sec.	3	19	13	644 ac.	$8	$ 5,152 No improvements, good land.
	2	19	13	644	10	6,440 No improvements, good land.
	1	19	13	711	15	10,750 All under plough, 3 stables, 2 cottages and 1 granary.
	6	19 A	12	640	12	7,680 One half under plough.
	5	19 A	12	640	11	7,040 " "
	33	18	13	640	8	5,150 No improvements, good land.
	34	18	13	640	9	5,760 No improvements, good land.
	35	18	13	640	14	8,960 3 stone cottages, 3 stables and 2 large granaries.
	36	18	13	640	15	9,600 3 cottages and stables, 3 granaries.
	31	18	12	640	14	8,960 3 cottages and stables.
	33	18	12	640	10	6,400 No improvements, extra good land.
	28	18	13	640	8	5,120 No improvements, extra good land.
	27	18	13	640	12	7,680 1 stone cottage, 1 large granary, all under plough.
	26	18	13	160	25	4,000 All under plough; all the main buildings, granaries, shops, stables, etc., cost $18,000.
	25	18	13	640	25	16,000
	30	18	12	480	20	9,600 2 cottages and large division stable; this is extra good land.
	22	18	13	200	10	2,000 Under plough.
	23	18	13	450	17	7,650 2 cottages and south division stable, large granary.
	20	18	12	640	15	9,600 All under plough; 3 cottages and stables.
	21	18	12	640	14	8,960 2 large granaries, 3 cottages and 3 stables; all under plough.
	17	18	12	200	12	2,400 1 cottage and stable.
				11,815 ac.		$154,902
Cost of 1,800 acres summer fallow for crop at $3.50 per acre						6,300
						$161,202

IMPLEMENTS.

20	Sulkey ploughs, $60	$ 1,200
5	Hand ploughs, $25	125
10	Spring tooth harrows, $35	350
6	Disc harrows, $30	180
1	Gang plough, small	40
2	Fanning mills, $35	70
1	Pair scales	75
1000	Sacks	200
18	Wagons, $65	1,170

7

18	Hay racks, $12	$ 216	
19	Binders, $150	2,850	
2	Steam engines	2,000	
2	Separators, $400	800	
3	Water tanks, $25	75	
6	Broadcast seeders, $40	240	
10	Press drills, $100	1,000	
50	Set working harness	500	
1	Buckboard	60	
2	Carriages	400	
1	Cart	30	
1	Double driving harness	60	
1	Single " "	35	
1	Wind mill and crusher	100	
	Blacksmith's outfit	200	
10	Sets trippletrees	70	
1	Flagpole	25	
5	Sleighs	100	
	Small tools, grain shovels, spades, forks, scythes, etc	100	
2	Mowers	150	
1	Horse rake	30	
2	Boiling kettles, etc	50	
	Repairs, etc	100	
			$12,601

BUILDING MATERIAL.

6000	Feet lumber, $22	$ 132	
60	M-Shingles, $3	180	
			$ 312

SUNDRIES.

900	Fence posts	$ 112	
4½	Miles fencing enclosing pasture	500	
	Supplies (estimated)	200	
3	Cottages on Government farm	600	
1	Stable	60	
2	Granaries	500	
1	Blacksmith shop	50	
9	Portable granaries	450	
			$ 2,472

FURNITURE.

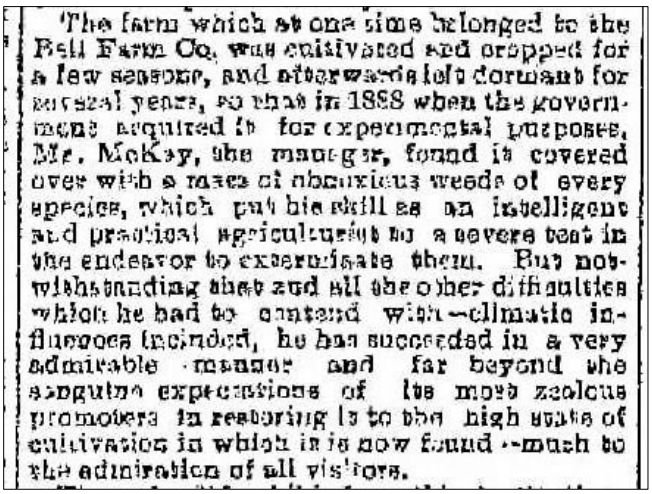
	All furniture, bedding, etc., (other than personal effects, silver and fancy work,) office furniture including safe, desks, etc	2,250
		$17,635

LIVE STOCK.

1	Imported Clydesdale stallion	$ 1,5[illegible]
5	Imported Clydesdale mares	2,000
30	Young mares, $200	6,000
15	Old horses, $100	1,500
3	Two year olds, $150	450
7	Yearlings, $75	525
3	Head cattle, $35	105
27	Hogs	300
	Chickens and turkeys	75
		$12,455

387 kb

1893 – Jan. 12 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 3 – report on 1892 work on Experimental Farm after land bought in 1888 from the Bell Farm



The farm which at one time belonged to the Bell Farm Co. was cultivated and cropped for a few seasons, and afterwards left dormant for several years, so that in 1888 when the government acquired it for experimental purposes, Mr. McKay, the manager, found it covered over with a mass of obnoxious weeds of every species, which put his skill as an intelligent and practical agriculturist to a severe test in the endeavor to exterminate them. But notwithstanding that and all the other difficulties which he had to contend with—climatic influences included, he has succeeded in a very admirable manner and far beyond the sanguine expectations of the most zealous promoters in restoring it to the high state of cultivation in which it is now found—much to the admiration of all visitors.

1893 – Jan. 14 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major Bell to be curling with Manitoba team in Bonspiel in St. Paul.

The Manitoba branch R.C.C.C. will send twelve rinks—48 curlers—to the bonspiel which opens at St. Paul next week. From Winnipeg the Thistles will be represented by R. H. Dunbar, L. R. McKenzie, W. A. Carson, A. C. Sutherland, C. Corneil, A. Brown, jr., W. H. Youhill, Evans and probably F. J. Dorsey. From the Granites there will be M. Fortune, J. Paterson, W. Georgeson, T. Johnstone, W. G. Fraser, Chas. Allen, E. G. Conklin, J. C. Gilker, T. Kelly, H. McDonald, E. Cass, and others, three rinks at least. The Assiniboines will be represented by F. L. Patton, C. P. Wilson, Major Bell, A. W. Lawe, and possibly G. F. Galt. Rat Portage and Keewatin will send two rinks Portage la Prairie one, and Brandon two. The Portage rink will be skipped by one of the best curlers in the province, W. H. Sparling.

R.C.C.C. = Royal Caledonian Curling Club

1893 – Jan. 24 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 2 – Major Bell on Manitoba Hotel Ball Committee (FRANK: which Major Bell – local or from Indian Head?)

2nd Annual Ball.

MANITOBA HOTEL

Thursday, January 26th.

COMMITTEE:

W. B. Scarth, Capt. Adams, R. R. Brough, Col. Villiers, W. R. Baker, K. McKenzie, W. R. Allan, John Gait, C. S. Hoare, W. F. Buchanan, Lyman Dwight, Capt. Howard, Duncan McArthur, Major Bell, A. L. Kirkland, F. H. Brydges, G. W. Vanderslice, F. W. Sprado.

F. W. Ashe, Secretary-treasurer.

87 kb

1893 – Jan. 27 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Major Bell at Manitoba Hotel ball (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

> "**A BALL-ROOM OF BEAUTY** . **One of the Principal Society Events of the Season at the Manitoba . . . . . Guests from the United States, Provincial Towns, and the Far West** . . . .It was terribly cold, but notwithstanding the wanderings of the mercury between thirty and forty below zero, nearly three hundred guests assembled in the Manitoba drawing rooms . . . . Duncan MacArthur, Major Bell . . . . THE LIST . . . . . J. Patterson, Major Bell, ..." (FRANK: possibly Major bell was alone because his wife was in Ontario.)

1893 – Feb. 3 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Mrs. Major Bell arrives late on train

> "PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT. . . . .. Mrs. (Major) Bell arrived on the delayed east train this morning."

1893 – Feb. 11 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – First description of Mrs. Bell's attire at Manitoba's Government House dinner – two references:

> ". . . . . On Monday evening, the long-looked-forward to musicale and dance given by Mrs. William Tupper and Mrs. Somerset Aikens at the Manitoba was the opening event of the week. From beginning to end it was a delightful affair, and over three hundred guests enjoyed every moment of the time. . . . . Among the loveliest gowns were . . . . . Mrs. (Major) Bell white silk, trimmed with opalescent sequins and handsome necklet of jewels; . . . . . ."
>
> and
>
> ". . . . . Bachelors' balls are always exceptionally enjoyable, ... last night's lovely party at the Manitoba . . . . over five hundred ladies and gentlemen had assembled . . . . . among other dresses I may mention . . . . . Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, sage green brocade with white silk front and handsome jewels. . . . . ."

1893 – Feb. 15 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Manitoba's Government House reception

> "RECEPTION LAST EVENING . . . . at Government House . . . . . .Following is a list of the invited Guests . . . . **B** . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell . . . . . ." (FRANK: which Major Bell? – three columns of names)

1893 – Feb. 22 – *Winnipeg Free Press,* p. 6 – Major and Mrs. Bell in Winnipeg for the winter

> "CITY AND COUNTRY - Major Bell, of Indian Head, and Mrs. Bell, have taken up their quarters at the Manitoba for the winter."

1893 – Feb. 24 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major and Mrs. Bell among list of recent callers at Government House

> "GOVERNMENT HOUSE – A Lengthy List of Recent Callers at Government House - . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell, ... " (FRANK: which Major Bell? - two columns of names;)

1893 – March 4 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 6 – Major and Mrs. Bell at social event hosted by Mrs. Brydges at a curling game.

> "WRITTEN FOR THE WOMEN . . . . . Mr. Brydges entertained a host of her friends last Saturday afternoon at the Assiniboine skating rink. The little waiting room was prettily arranged as a reception room. . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell. . . . . " (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

1893 – March 20 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major Bell plays hockey with BENEDICTS – (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

> **"THE BATTLE OF SATURDAY** . . . . On Wednesday night a hockey match, Benedicts vs Bachelors, will be played at Granite curling rink in aid of the General Hospital and Children's Home. Major Bell will lead the Benedicts and P.A. McDonald the Bachelors."

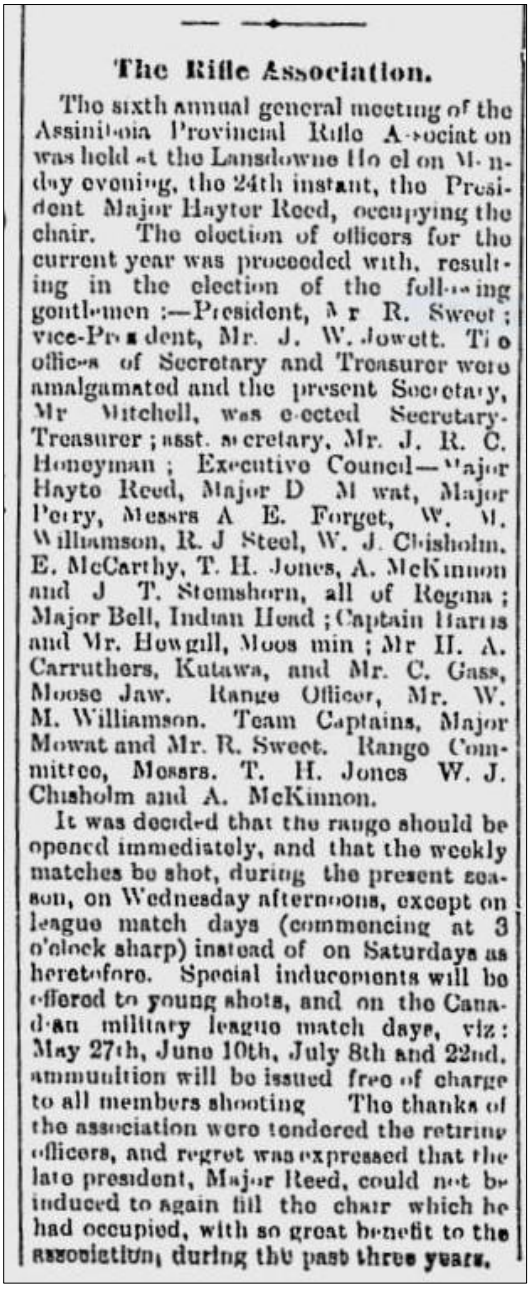
1893 – March 30 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

> Advertisement: "A.J. Osment General Merchant and Dealer in Undertaker's supplies, furniture, stoves and steam fitting. Indian Head Assa."

1893 – April 24 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 8 - Bell leaves Winnipeg for Indian Head to seed

"Major Bell went west, yesterday, to his farm at Indian Head, to superintend seeding operations, which will be on a more gigantic scale than ever this year."

1893 – April 27 – *Regina Evening Leader,* p.1 – The Rifle Association - includes Major Bell on the executive



The Rifle Association.

The sixth annual general meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association was held at the Lansdowne Hotel on Monday evening, the 24th instant, the President Major Hayter Reed, occupying the chair. The election of officers for the current year was proceeded with, resulting in the election of the following gentlemen :—President, Mr R. Sweet; vice-President, Mr. J. W. Jowett. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer were amalgamated and the present Secretary, Mr Mitchell, was elected Secretary-Treasurer; asst. secretary, Mr. J. R. C. Honeyman; Executive Council—Major Hayter Reed, Major D Mowat, Major Perry, Messrs A E. Forget, W. M. Williamson, R. J Steel, W. J. Chisholm, E. McCarthy, T. H. Jones, A. McKinnon and J T. Stonshorn, all of Regina; Major Bell, Indian Head; Captain Harris and Mr. Howgill, Moosomin; Mr H. A. Carruthers, Kutawa, and Mr. C. Gass, Moose Jaw. Range Officer, Mr. W. M. Williamson. Team Captains, Major Mowat and Mr. R. Sweet. Range Committee, Messrs. T. H. Jones W. J. Chisholm and A. McKinnon.

It was decided that the range should be opened immediately, and that the weekly matches be shot, during the present season, on Wednesday afternoons, except on league match days (commencing at 3 o'clock sharp) instead of on Saturdays as heretofore. Special inducements will be offered to young shots, and on the Canadian military league match days, viz: May 27th, June 10th, July 8th and 22nd, ammunition will be issued free of charge to all members shooting The thanks of the association were tendered the retiring officers, and regret was expressed that the late president, Major Reed, could not be induced to again fill the chair which he had occupied, with so great benefit to the association, during the past three years.

1893 – April 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

"Mr. A.J. Osment is renovating his store."

"Major Bell arrived from the east Monday morning."

1893 – May 4 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 1 – Seeding on the Bell Farm

"Major Bell reports that 300 acres were seeded on the Bell farm by Monday last. Although seeding is not yet general in eastern Assiniboia, a great deal of land has already been sewn."

1893 – May 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"**Indian Head** - Major Bell is home again from the east."

1893 – May 18 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"Major Bell has 1,600 acres of wheat sown. Very promising."

p.4 – "**At the Hotels:** The Leland: Major Bell, Indian Head"

1893 – May 25 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __ – check for details

[annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association of Indian Head held 21st inst. Major Bell appointed president, Angus McKay 1st vice-president.]

1893 – May 26 – *Winnipeg Tribune* , p. 2 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Manitoba Government House social event

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE . . . . . List of Callers at Government House recently and on Thursday . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell . . . . . " (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

1893 – May 31 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major and Mrs. Bell leave for Indian Head.

"PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell leave for the west this afternoon"

1893 – June 1 – *Regina Evening Leader,* p. 2 Bell elected President of Liberal-Conservative Assoc.

"**INDIAN HEAD:.** . . At the annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association of Indian Head held on the 20th inst., Major Bell was elected president, Angus McKay 1st vice-president, W.H. Stephens 2nd vice-president."

1893 – June 13 – Winnipeg Free Press, p. 11 – Major Bell in Winnipeg

"CITY AND COUNTRY - . . . . . W.R. Bell arrived from his farm at Indian Head Sunday night."

1893 – June 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"A Big Affair. The annual meeting of the Central Liberal-Conservative Association of East Assiniboia was held at Indian Head on Thurs. the 8th inst and was attended by 75 delegates, representing all portions of the district." Election of officers including president Mr. Angus McKay Indian Head, and 1st vice president Captain Price Moosomin (Frank, you included the pix of his house in your version of the stone house book) Under the sub-head "The Banquet," 125 gentlemen sat down at the Commercial Hotel and "After justice had been done to the bill of fare, Major Bell, overflowing with wit and good humor, proceed to dispose of a portion of the programme . . . "

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, has sent his horse Ovington to Winnipeg to be trained for the summer races."

"Indian Head riflemen stood highest in the first North-West League match, and in the second competition at Indian Head, on Saturday, June 10, the following scores were made: WR Bell, 72 . . . "

1893 – June 19 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 8 – Ovington to train in Winnipeg

> "Major Bell's horse "Ovington" has been brought down from Indian Head and is at Patterson's stables in training for the coming races."

1893 – July 4 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 3 – Mrs. Bell in Winnipeg

> "PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT – . . . . . Mrs. W.R. Bell , of Indian Head, is a guest at the Manitoba."

1893 – July 6 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press,* p. 5 – Ovington to race at Prairie Park, Winnipeg

> "Rain or shine the horses will start at Prairie Park this afternoon at 2 o'clock sharp. The directors have become tired waiting for favorable weather and decided last night to go on with the programme – let the elements rage as they may. Four races are on the board, -the three-minute- ___ . . . . . In the half-mile heats . . . . . The three-year-old trot . . . . . and the mile and a quarter dash in which Blair Athol is considered a sure winner will have in the field Thankful, Ovington, and Miss Tax."

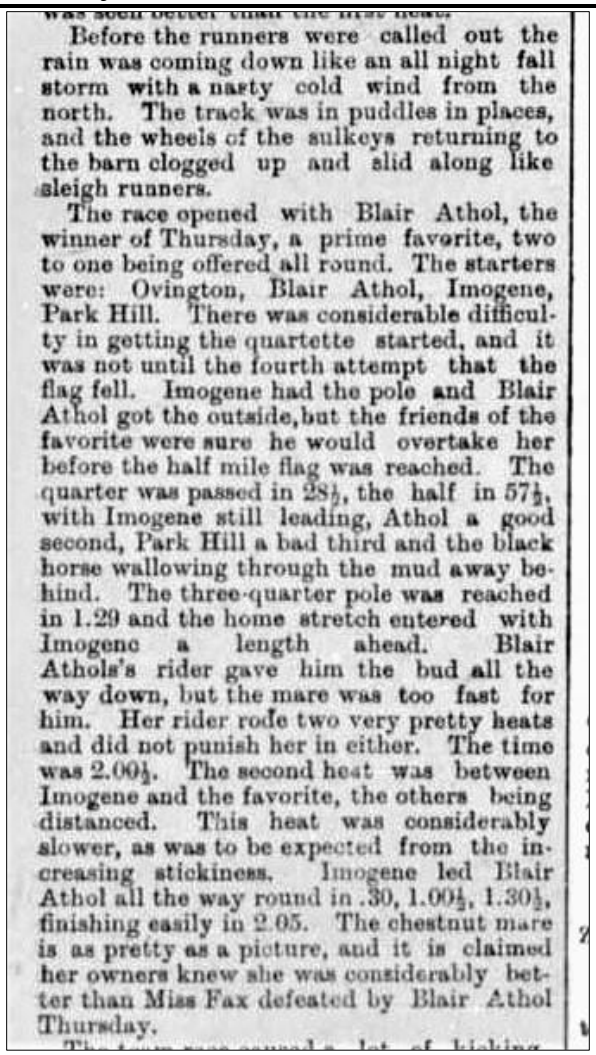
1893 – July 7 - *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 - At Prairie Park Ovington entered for the mile heat, came in third

> "The Races at Prairie Park . . . . Races will be continued at Prairie Park to-day. . . . . The mile heats will bring Ovington, Blair Athol, Imogene and Park Hill to the wire . . . . ."

1893 – July 7 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __ – check for details

> [106 degrees F in the shade reported; last winter 54 degrees below zero F.] – source ?

1893 – July 8 - *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 - At Prairie Park Ovington – "the back horse" – entered for the mile heat, but lost.



was such better than the first heat.

Before the runners were called out the rain was coming down like an all night fall storm with a nasty cold wind from the north. The track was in puddles in places, and the wheels of the sulkeys returning to the barn clogged up and slid along like sleigh runners.

The race opened with Blair Athol, the winner of Thursday, a prime favorite, two to one being offered all round. The starters were: Ovington, Blair Athol, Imogene, Park Hill. There was considerable difficulty in getting the quartette started, and it was not until the fourth attempt that the flag fell. Imogene had the pole and Blair Athol got the outside, but the friends of the favorite were sure he would overtake her before the half mile flag was reached. The quarter was passed in 28½, the half in 57½, with Imogene still leading, Athol a good second, Park Hill a bad third and the black horse wallowing through the mud away behind. The three-quarter pole was reached in 1.29 and the home stretch entered with Imogene a length ahead. Blair Athols's rider gave him the bud all the way down, but the mare was too fast for him. Her rider rode two very pretty heats and did not punish her in either. The time was 2.00½. The second heat was between Imogene and the favorite, the others being distanced. This heat was considerably slower, as was to be expected from the increasing stickiness. Imogene led Blair Athol all the way round in .30, 1.00½, 1.30½, finishing easily in 2.05. The chestnut mare is as pretty as a picture, and it is claimed her owners knew she was considerably better than Miss Fax defeated by Blair Athol Thursday.

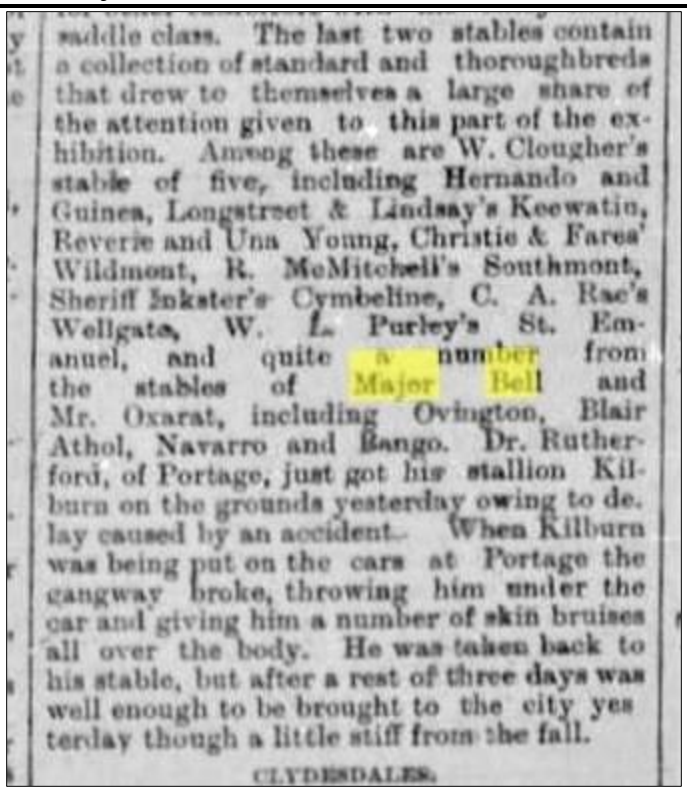
The [illegible] round a lot of kicking

129 kb

1893 – July 14 - *Winnipeg Daily Tribune,* p. 5, col. 3 – Ovington to race at the Winnipeg Exhibition

> "Five additional entries have been made for the novelty race, mile dash: H. Simpson, Winnipeg, Fandango; W.R. Bell, Indian Head, Ovington; G. Campbell, Elphinstone, Black Joe; A.W. Law, Winnipeg, Parkhill; G.M. Webb, Winnipeg, Richard III."
>
> "Ovington and Fandango have been entered by their respective owners for the open running race on Friday, as also Parkhill, by A.W. Law, and Richard III, by G.M. Webb."

1893 – July 20 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 1 – Winnipeg Fair – Major Bell's horses, including Ovington



saddle class. The last two stables contain a collection of standard and thoroughbreds that drew to themselves a large share of the attention given to this part of the exhibition. Among these are W. Clougher's stable of five, including Hernando and Guinea, Longstreet & Lindsay's Keewatin, Reverie and Una Young, Christie & Fares' Wildmont, R. McMitchell's Southmont, Sheriff Inkster's Cymbeline, C. A. Rae's Wellgate, W. L. Purley's St. Emanuel, and quite a number from the stables of Major Bell and Mr. Oxarat, including Ovington, Blair Athol, Navarro and Bango. Dr. Rutherford, of Portage, just got his stallion Kilburn on the grounds yesterday owing to delay caused by an accident. When Kilburn was being put on the cars at Portage the gangway broke, throwing him under the car and giving him a number of skin bruises all over the body. He was taken back to his stable, but after a rest of three days was well enough to be brought to the city yesterday though a little stiff from the fall.

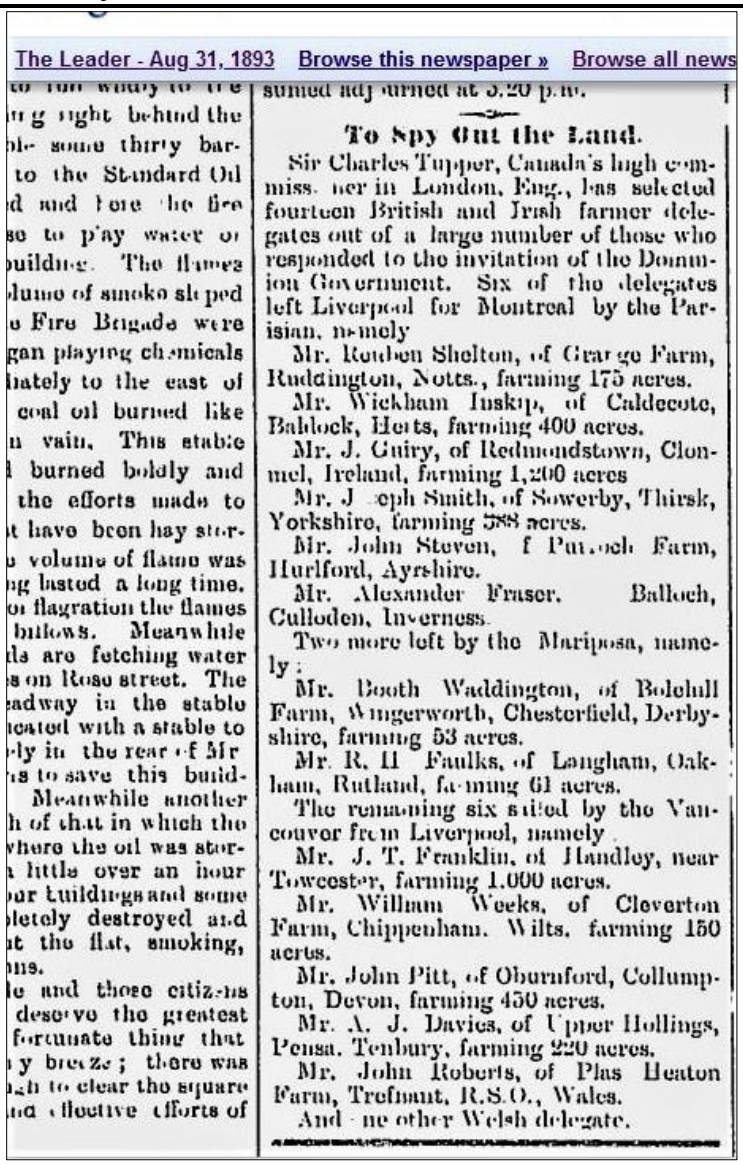
CLYDESDALES.

82 kb

1893 - Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
300	July 25, 1893	James Long	Stanbridge Hall, Ramsey, England	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour
301	"	Booth Waddington	Derbeyshire, England	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour
301	"	J. Steven	Ayrshire, Scotland	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour
303	"	Reuben Skelton	Nottingham, England	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour

1893 – List of British-Irish Farm Delegates (source: *Regina Leader*, 31 Aug. 1893, p. 8



The Leader - Aug 31, 1893 Browse this newspaper » Browse all news

to run wildly to fire
ing right behind the
ble some thirty bar-
to the Standard Oil
d and here the fire
se to play water on
building. The flames
olume of smoke sloped
e Fire Brigade were
gan playing chemicals
lately to the east of
coal oil burned like
n vain. This stable
l burned boldly and
the efforts made to
t have been hay stor-
e volume of flame was
ng lasted a long time.
ol flagration the flames
billows. Meanwhile
ds are fetching water
s on Rose street. The
adway in the stable
ected with a stable to
ely in the rear of Mr
ns to save this build-
Meanwhile another
h of that in which the
where the oil was stor-
a little over an hour
our buildings and some
letely destroyed and
t the flat, smoking,
ins.
le and those citizens
deserve the greatest
fortunate thing that
y breeze; there was
gh to clear the square
nd effective efforts of

sumed adjourned at 5.20 p.m.

To Spy Out the Land.

Sir Charles Tupper, Canada's high commissioner in London, Eng., has selected fourteen British and Irish farmer delegates out of a large number of those who responded to the invitation of the Dominion Government. Six of the delegates left Liverpool for Montreal by the Parisian, namely

Mr. Reuben Shelton, of Grange Farm, Ruddington, Notts., farming 175 acres.

Mr. Wickham Inskip, of Caldecote, Baldock, Herts, farming 400 acres.

Mr. J. Guiry, of Redmondstown, Clonmel, Ireland, farming 1,200 acres

Mr. Joseph Smith, of Sowerby, Thirsk, Yorkshire, farming 588 acres.

Mr. John Steven, of Parroch Farm, Hurlford, Ayrshire.

Mr. Alexander Fraser, Balloch, Culloden, Inverness.

Two more left by the Mariposa, namely;

Mr. Booth Waddington, of Bolehill Farm, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, farming 53 acres.

Mr. R. H. Faulks, of Langham, Oakham, Rutland, farming 61 acres.

The remaining six sailed by the Vancouver from Liverpool, namely.

Mr. J. T. Franklin, of Handley, near Towcester, farming 1,000 acres.

Mr. William Weeks, of Cleverton Farm, Chippenham, Wilts, farming 150 acres.

Mr. John Pitt, of Oburnford, Collumpton, Devon, farming 450 acres.

Mr. A. J. Davies, of Upper Hollings, Pensa, Tenbury, farming 220 acres.

Mr. John Roberts, of Plas Heaton Farm, Trefnant, R.S.O., Wales.

And one other Welsh delegate.

230 kb

Some of the delegates later stayed at the Lansdowne Hotel, Regina (See Sept. 21, 1893 entry)

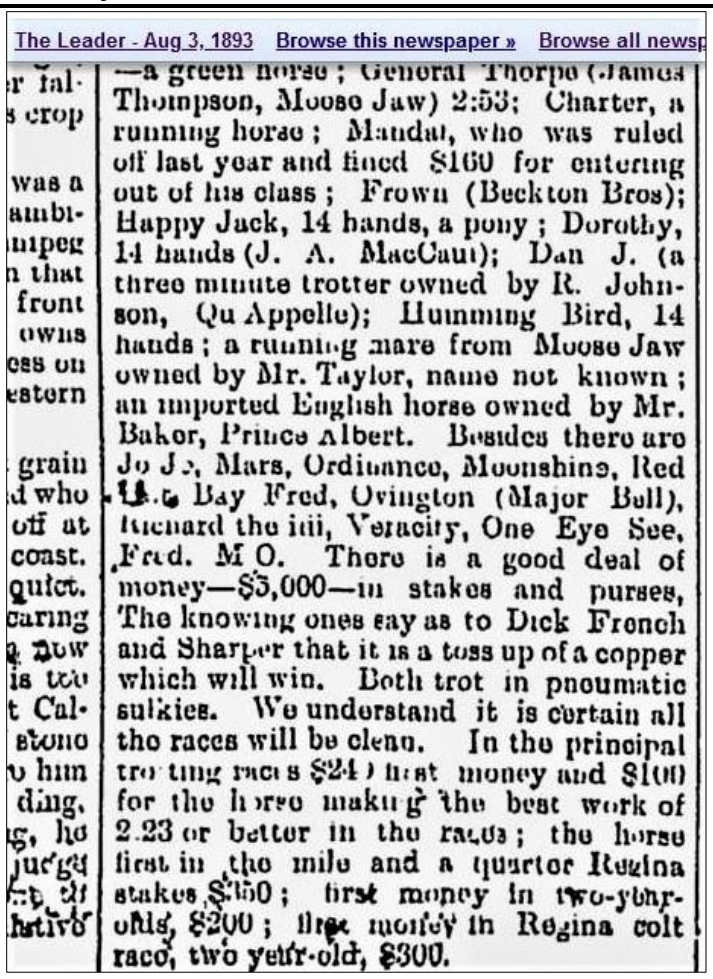
1893 – Aug. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"We had the pleasure of a drive over a portion of the Bell Farm a few days ago with the Major, and saw some splendid fields of grain. He has a field of oats that would be hard to beat in any country and nearly all his wheat looks fine."

1893 – Aug. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Report on Bell Farm crops

"We had the pleasure of a drive over a portion of the Bell Farm a few days ago with the Major, and saw some splendid fields of grain. He has a field of oats that would be hard to beat in any country and nearly all of his wheat looks fine."

1893 – Aug. 3, *Regina Leader* , p. 8 - Major Bell runs Ovington in Regina Races



The Leader - Aug 3, 1893 Browse this newspaper » Browse all newsp

—a green horse; General Thorpe (James Thompson, Moose Jaw) 2:53; Charter, a running horse; Mandal, who was ruled off last year and fined $160 for entering out of his class; Frown (Beckton Bros); Happy Jack, 14 hands, a pony; Dorothy, 14 hands (J. A. MacCaul); Dan J. (a three minute trotter owned by R. Johnson, Qu Appelle); Humming Bird, 14 hands; a running mare from Moose Jaw owned by Mr. Taylor, name not known; an imported English horse owned by Mr. Baker, Prince Albert. Besides there are Jo Jo, Mars, Ordinance, Moonshine, Red Bay Fred, Ovington (Major Bell), Richard the iii, Veracity, One Eye See, Fred. M O. There is a good deal of money—$5,000—in stakes and purses, The knowing ones say as to Dick French and Sharper that it is a toss up of a copper which will win. Both trot in pneumatic sulkies. We understand it is certain all the races will be clean. In the principal trotting races $240 first money and $100 for the horse making the best work of 2.23 or better in the races; the horse first in the mile and a quarter Regina stakes $250; first money in two-year-olds, $200; first money in Regina colt race, two year-old, $300.

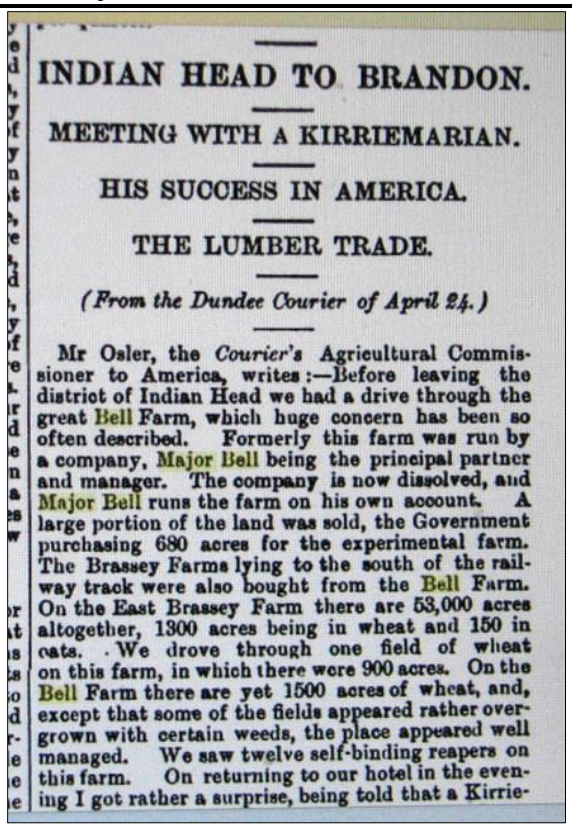
205 kb

1893 – Aug. 10 – Regina Leader, p. 8 – Major Bell staying at the Lansdowne Hotel, Regina.

1893 – August 10 – Visit by Andrew Osler and James Taylor of the Artisan Expedition, from Scotland.

The report on this visit was made in several later issues of the *Dundee Courier,* including one on April 24, 1894 by Andrew Osler, and one on Jan. 13, 1894 by James Taylor. The Expedition appears to have been funded by the *Dundee Courier*.

(Frank: I think that the reference to Brassey's 53,000 acres in the East Brassey Farm is a misprint – possibly it should be 5,300 acres. Elsewhere there is mention made that each of the Brassey Farms were about 2,500 acres, so two of them would be close to 5,000 acres. The statistics provided by Taylor appear to be more accurate than those in Osler's article)



INDIAN HEAD TO BRANDON.

MEETING WITH A KIRRIEMARIAN.

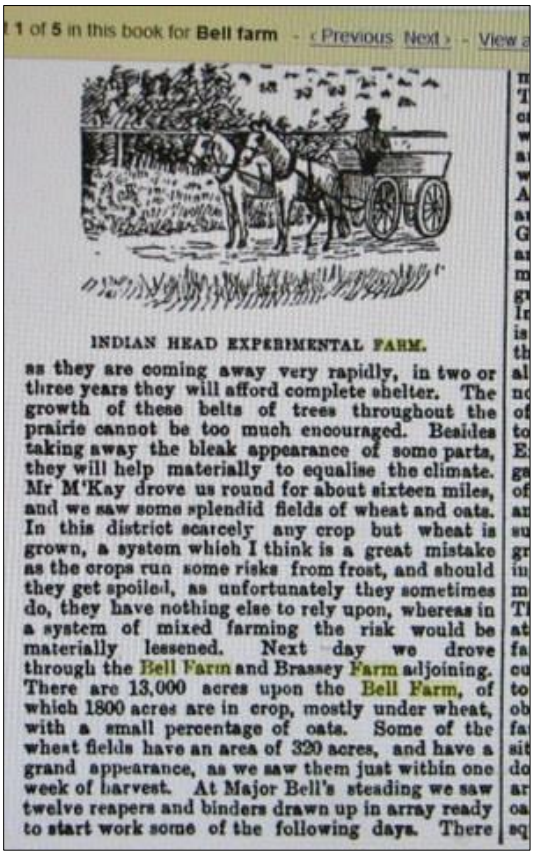
HIS SUCCESS IN AMERICA.

THE LUMBER TRADE.

(From the Dundee Courier of April 24.)

Mr Osler, the *Courier's* Agricultural Commissioner to America, writes:—Before leaving the district of Indian Head we had a drive through the great Bell Farm, which huge concern has been so often described. Formerly this farm was run by a company, Major Bell being the principal partner and manager. The company is now dissolved, and Major Bell runs the farm on his own account. A large portion of the land was sold, the Government purchasing 680 acres for the experimental farm. The Brassey Farms lying to the south of the railway track were also bought from the Bell Farm. On the East Brassey Farm there are 53,000 acres altogether, 1300 acres being in wheat and 150 in oats. We drove through one field of wheat on this farm, in which there were 900 acres. On the Bell Farm there are yet 1500 acres of wheat, and, except that some of the fields appeared rather overgrown with certain weeds, the place appeared well managed. We saw twelve self-binding reapers on this farm. On returning to our hotel in the evening I got rather a surprise, being told that a Kirrie-

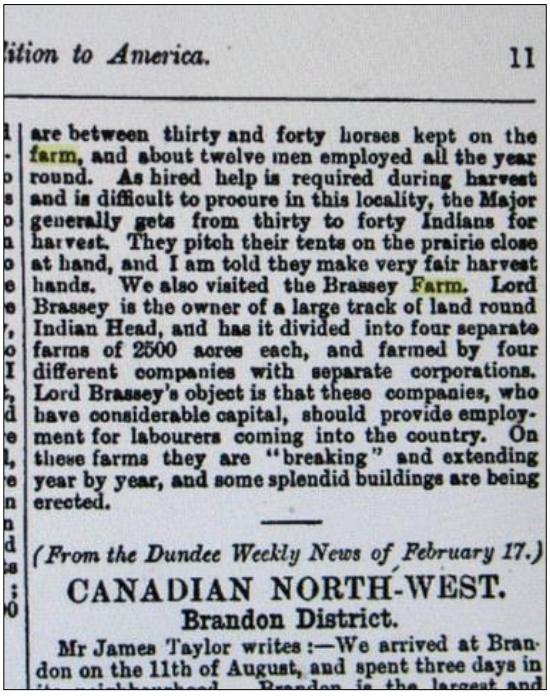
Osler's Report: (138 KB)



1 of 5 in this book for Bell farm - < Previous Next > - View

INDIAN HEAD EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

as they are coming away very rapidly, in two or three years they will afford complete shelter. The growth of these belts of trees throughout the prairie cannot be too much encouraged. Besides taking away the bleak appearance of some parts, they will help materially to equalise the climate. Mr M'Kay drove us round for about sixteen miles, and we saw some splendid fields of wheat and oats. In this district scarcely any crop but wheat is grown, a system which I think is a great mistake as the crops run some risks from frost, and should they get spoiled, as unfortunately they sometimes do, they have nothing else to rely upon, whereas in a system of mixed farming the risk would be materially lessened. Next day we drove through the Bell Farm and Brassey Farm adjoining. There are 13,000 acres upon the Bell Farm, of which 1800 acres are in crop, mostly under wheat, with a small percentage of oats. Some of the wheat fields have an area of 320 acres, and have a grand appearance, as we saw them just within one week of harvest. At Major Bell's steading we saw twelve reapers and binders drawn up in array ready to start work some of the following days. There



ition to America. 11

are between thirty and forty horses kept on the farm, and about twelve men employed all the year round. As hired help is required during harvest and is difficult to procure in this locality, the Major generally gets from thirty to forty Indians for harvest. They pitch their tents on the prairie close at hand, and I am told they make very fair harvest hands. We also visited the Brassey Farm. Lord Brassey is the owner of a large track of land round Indian Head, and has it divided into four separate farms of 2500 acres each, and farmed by four different companies with separate corporations. Lord Brassey's object is that these companies, who have considerable capital, should provide employment for labourers coming into the country. On these farms they are "breaking" and extending year by year, and some splendid buildings are being erected.

(From the Dundee Weekly News of February 17.)

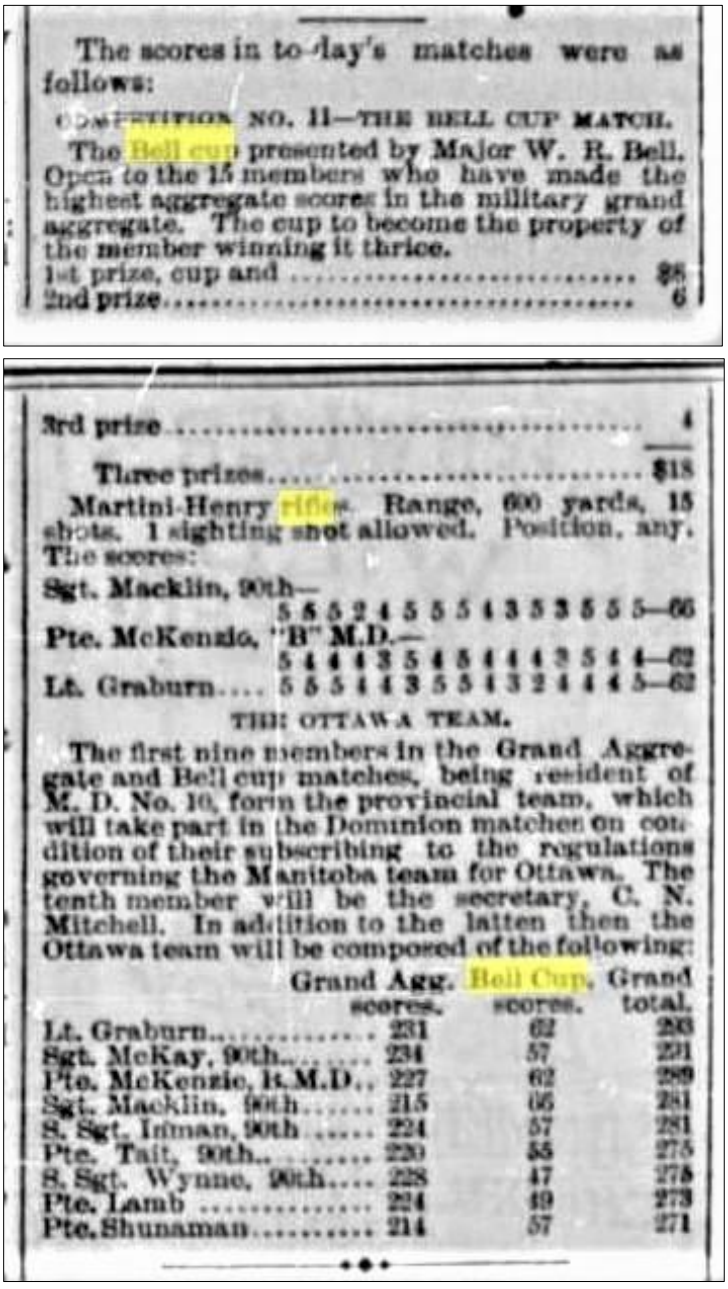
CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

Brandon District.

Mr James Taylor writes:—We arrived at Brandon on the 11th of August, and spent three days in

Taylor's Report (84 and 100 KB) – also reference to First Nation workers

1893 – Aug. 12 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Bell Cup presentation criteria



The scores in to-day's matches were as follows:

COMPETITION NO. 11—THE BELL CUP MATCH.

The Bell cup presented by Major W. R. Bell. Open to the 15 members who have made the highest aggregate scores in the military grand aggregate. The cup to become the property of the member winning it thrice.

1st prize, cup and $5
2nd prize..... 6
3rd prize..... 4

Three prizes..... $18

Martini-Henry rifles. Range, 600 yards, 15 shots. 1 sighting shot allowed. Position, any. The scores:

Sgt. Macklin, 90th—
5 5 5 5 2 4 5 5 5 4 3 5 3 5 5 5—66

Pte. McKenzie, "B" M.D.—
5 4 4 4 3 5 4 5 4 4 4 3 5 4 4—62

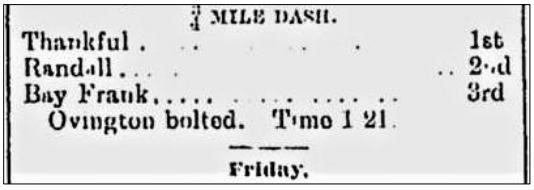
Lt. Graburn.... 5 5 5 4 4 3 5 5 4 3 2 4 4 4 5—62

THE OTTAWA TEAM.

The first nine members in the Grand Aggregate and Bell cup matches, being resident of M. D. No. 10, form the provincial team, which will take part in the Dominion matches on condition of their subscribing to the regulations governing the Manitoba team for Ottawa. The tenth member will be the secretary, C. N. Mitchell. In addition to the latter then the Ottawa team will be composed of the following:

	Grand Agg. scores.	Bell Cup scores.	Grand total.
Lt. Graburn.....	231	62	293
Sgt. McKay, 90th.....	234	57	291
Pte. McKenzie, B.M.D..	227	62	289
Sgt. Macklin, 90th.....	215	66	281
S. Sgt. Inman, 90th.....	224	57	281
Pte. Tait, 90th.....	220	55	275
S. Sgt. Wynne, 90th....	228	47	275
Pte. Lamb	224	49	273
Pte. Shunaman.....	214	57	271

1893 – 17 Aug – Regina Leader, p. 8 – Ovington bolted at Regina Races



¾ MILE DASH.

Thankful 1st
Randall 2nd
Bay Frank 3rd
Ovington bolted. Time 1 21.

Friday.

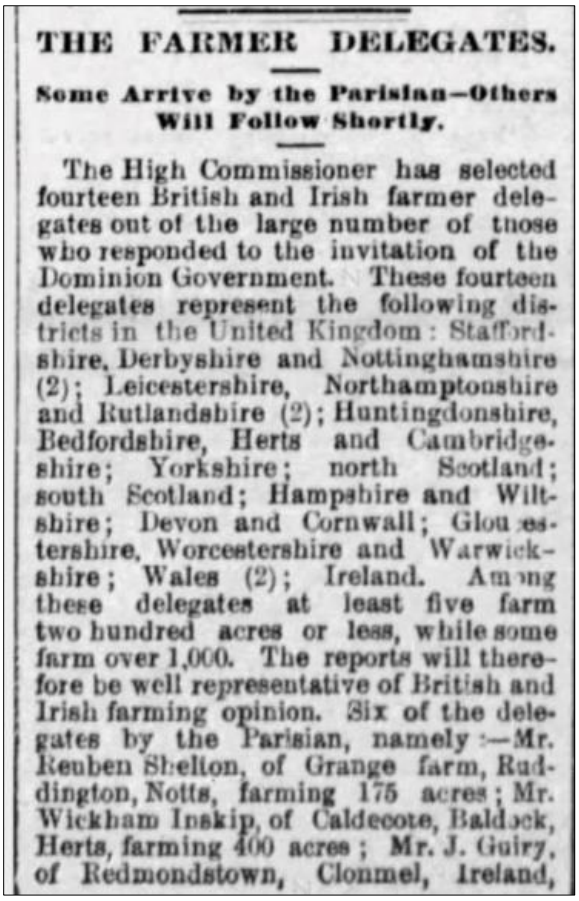
38 kb

1893 – Aug. 24 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"The *Free Press* says that Mr. Bell believes his wheat crop will go 35-40 bushels per acre." (Goes on to state that, during a Sunbeam Farm, aka Brassey farm, tour, 800 acres is under wheat and nearly 1,000 acres is ready for next year.)

1893 – Aug. 28 – *Montreal Gazette* – 14 British-Irish-Scottish -Welsh Farmer Delegates arrive in Canada

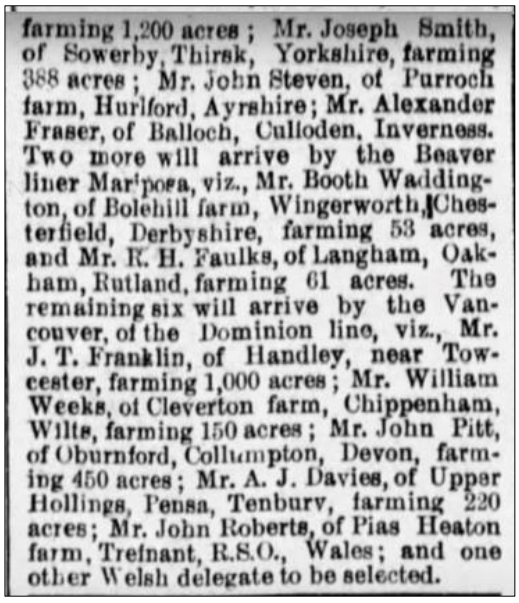
Allan Line - S.S. Parisian: Reuben Shelton; Wickham Inskip; J. Guiry; Joseph Smith; John Steven; Alexander Fraser;
Beaver Line - S.S. Mariposa: Booth Waddington; R.H. Faulks;
Dominion Line – S.S. Vancouver: J.T. Franklin; William Weeks; John Pitt ; A.J. Davies; John Roberts; plus one other Welsh delegate to be selected [James Long].



THE FARMER DELEGATES.

Some Arrive by the Parisian—Others Will Follow Shortly.

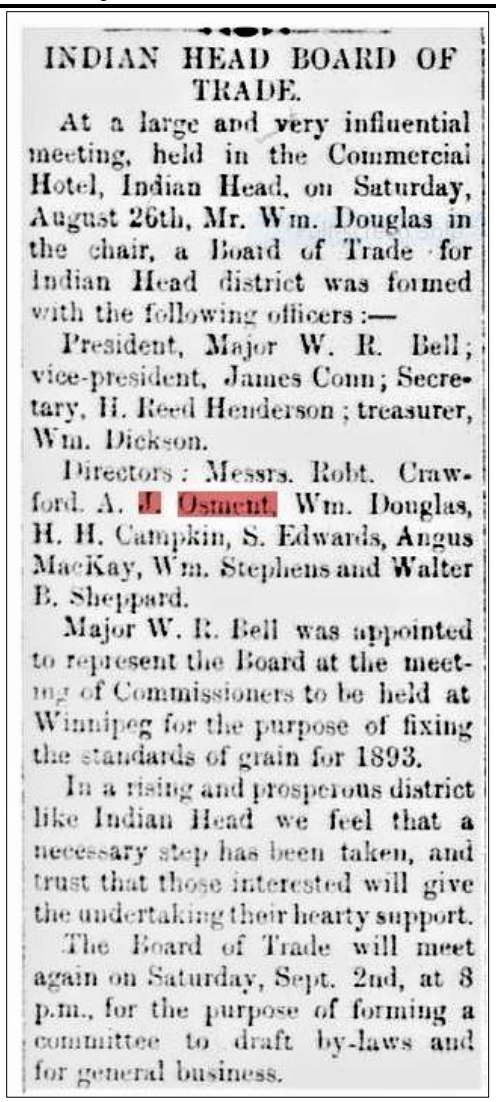
The High Commissioner has selected fourteen British and Irish farmer delegates out of the large number of those who responded to the invitation of the Dominion Government. These fourteen delegates represent the following districts in the United Kingdom: Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (2); Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire (2); Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Herts and Cambridgeshire; Yorkshire; north Scotland; south Scotland; Hampshire and Wiltshire; Devon and Cornwall; Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire; Wales (2); Ireland. Among these delegates at least five farm two hundred acres or less, while some farm over 1,000. The reports will therefore be well representative of British and Irish farming opinion. Six of the delegates by the Parisian, namely:—Mr. Reuben Shelton, of Grange farm, Ruddington, Notts, farming 175 acres; Mr. Wickham Inskip, of Caldecote, Baldock, Herts, farming 400 acres; Mr. J. Guiry, of Redmondstown, Clonmel, Ireland,



farming 1,200 acres; Mr. Joseph Smith, of Sowerby, Thirsk, Yorkshire, farming 388 acres; Mr. John Steven, of Purroch farm, Hurlford, Ayrshire; Mr. Alexander Fraser, of Balloch, Culloden, Inverness. Two more will arrive by the Beaver liner Mariposa, viz., Mr. Booth Waddington, of Bolehill farm, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, farming 53 acres, and Mr. R. H. Faulks, of Langham, Oakham, Rutland, farming 61 acres. The remaining six will arrive by the Vancouver, of the Dominion line, viz., Mr. J. T. Franklin, of Handley, near Towcester, farming 1,000 acres; Mr. William Weeks, of Cleverton farm, Chippenham, Wilts, farming 150 acres; Mr. John Pitt, of Oburnford, Collumpton, Devon, farming 450 acres; Mr. A. J. Davies, of Upper Hollings, Pensa, Tenbury, farming 220 acres; Mr. John Roberts, of Pias Heaton farm, Trefnant, R.S.O., Wales; and one other Welsh delegate to be selected.

269 kb 220 kb

1893 – Aug. 31 - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 - Bell elected President of the new Indian Head Board of Trade



INDIAN HEAD BOARD OF TRADE.

At a large and very influential meeting, held in the Commercial Hotel, Indian Head, on Saturday, August 26th, Mr. Wm. Douglas in the chair, a Board of Trade for Indian Head district was formed with the following officers :—

President, Major W. R. Bell; vice-president, James Conn; Secretary, H. Reed Henderson ; treasurer, Wm. Dickson.

Directors : Messrs. Robt. Crawford, A. J. Osment, Wm. Douglas, H. H. Campkin, S. Edwards, Angus MacKay, Wm. Stephens and Walter B. Sheppard.

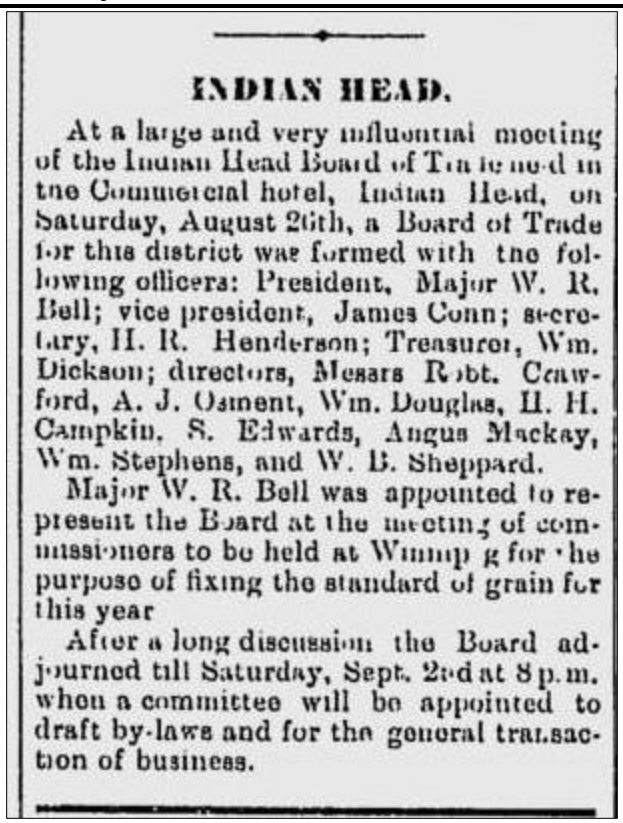
Major W. R. Bell was appointed to represent the Board at the meeting of Commissioners to be held at Winnipeg for the purpose of fixing the standards of grain for 1893.

In a rising and prosperous district like Indian Head we feel that a necessary step has been taken, and trust that those interested will give the undertaking their hearty support.

The Board of Trade will meet again on Saturday, Sept. 2nd, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of forming a committee to draft by-laws and for general business.

129 kb

1893 – Aug. 31 – R*egina Evening Leader*, p. 5 – Bell elected President of the new Indian Head Board of Trade



INDIAN HEAD.

At a large and very influential meeting of the Indian Head Board of Trade held in the Commercial hotel, Indian Head, on Saturday, August 26th, a Board of Trade for this district was formed with the following officers: President, Major W. R. Bell; vice president, James Conn; secretary, H. R. Henderson; Treasurer, Wm. Dickson; directors, Messrs Robt. Crawford, A. J. Osment, Wm. Douglas, H. H. Campkin, S. Edwards, Angus Mackay, Wm. Stephens, and W. B. Sheppard.

Major W. R. Bell was appointed to represent the Board at the meeting of commissioners to be held at Winnipeg for the purpose of fixing the standard of grain for this year

After a long discussion the Board adjourned till Saturday, Sept. 2nd at 8 p.m. when a committee will be appointed to draft by-laws and for the general transaction of business.

102 kb

1893 – September ? – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
304	Sept.? 1893	Alex Fraser	Balloch of Cullodin, Inverness, Scotland	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour
305	Sept. ? 1893	Jerome James Guiry	*????*	Member of British-Irish Farmer Delegate Tour
306	"	*??? J. Cox*	Crown Lands, Winnipeg in charge of delegation	Manitoba

1893 – Sept. 7 – Qu'Appelle Vidette , p. __

"Territorial Echoes Indian Head . . . At a meeting held in the Commercial Hotel, Indian Head, on Sat. Rug 26th, a Board of Trade for Indian Head district was formed with the following officers: President, Major W.R. Bell; vice president James Conn . . . Directors: Messrs Robert Crawford, AK Osment . . . Angus MacKay. . . Walter B. Sheppard…

"Major W.R. Bell was appointed to represent the Board at the meeting of Commissioners to be held at Winnipeg for the purpose of fixing the standards for grain for 1893."

1893 – Sept. 8 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Whyte reports on burning of Bell Farm Elevator and Mill

> "A NICKLE-PLATE LINE. - Coming east, General Superintendent Whyte and party passed the burning elevator and mill at the Bell farm, Indian Head. The heat from the burning building was intense. As the mill had not been running lately, the origin of the fire is ascribed to spontaneous combustion. A considerable quantity of wheat had been shipped from the elevator the day previous, therefore there was not much grain stored, thought the loss will be quite heavy. It is the intention of Major Bell to immediately rebuild both the elevator and mill, as the former will be needed for storing some 60,000 bushels, the yield of wheat on the Bell farm."

1893 – 9 September – *Victoria Daily Colonist*: p. 1: Fire at the Bell Farm

http://archive.org/stream/dailycolonist18930909uvic/18930909#page/n0/mode/1up/search/indian+head

> "Fire at the Bell Farm. Winnipeg, Sept. 8 – The flour mill, elevator, engine house and office belonging to the Bell farm at Indian Head, were destroyed by fire, also a car containing ties. Total loss about $25,000. The original of the fire is unknown."

1893 – Sept 14 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* - Bell and friends shooting ducks at Lakesend

> "The following item should have appeared in our last issue: Mr. A.E. Iredale entertained Major Bell, of Indian Head; Mr. D. Ricardo, of Calgary; Messrs. Lascelles and Crosbie, of Moose Jaw; and Mr. C. Fetherstonhaugh at his shooting box, at Lakesend, on Friday and Saturday last when thy had two good days' sport, bagging over 400 ducks."

1893 – Sept. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

> "Big Fire at Indian Head. The fire fiend visited Indian Head on Thursday afternoon last and filled the town with excitement and consternation. The Bell Farm flour mill, elevator and engine house were destroyed by the devastating element, as was also a car of ties belonging to the CPR. There were 1,400 bags of low grade flour in the mill at the time, and the elevator contained 1,300 bushels of wheat. The damage was estimated at $25,000 and there was only $4,000 insurance on the elevator. There was a strong wind blowing at the time, and other buildings in the vicinity were in great danger of being consumed. Only the hardest fighting prevented the town from being licked up by the flames. The origin of the fire is not definitely known."

64 kb

Major Bell's grain elevator and flour mill burned in 1893 - note gap in lineup in this c.1896 photo – possibly the site of the mill and elevator. (Source: Peel Prairie Postcards # PC002464)

1893 – September - exact date undetermined (some on 19th Sept., see below)

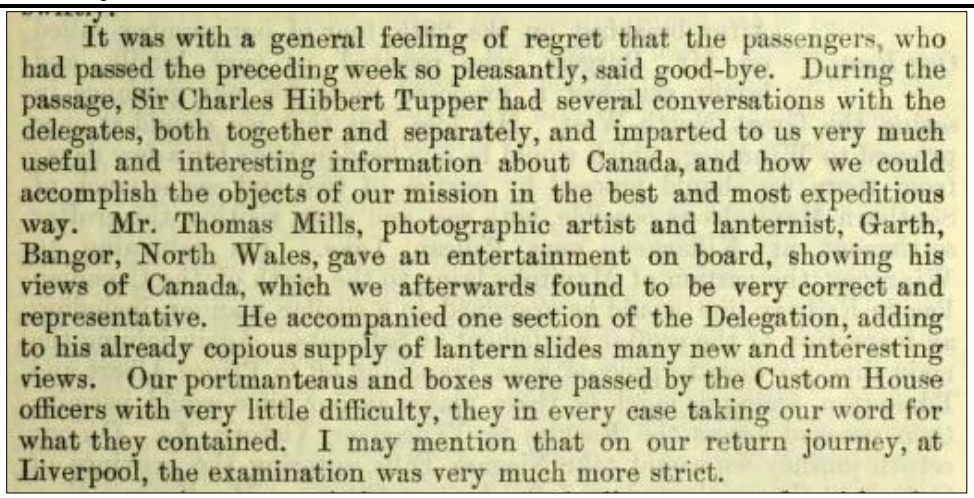
In 1893 the High Commissioner for Canada invited a delegation of people connected to the agricultural industry in Great Britain to visit Canada and "report upon its agricultural resources, and the advantages the country offers for the settlement of farmers and farm labourers, and the other classes for which there is a great demand."

Some of the tour members visited the Bell Farm in late July, en route West; others in early September (including Alex Fraser and John Steven) , apparently while returning to the East. A number of the members signed the Visitor's Register. Unfortunately Major Bell was away when Fraser and Stevens toured the area, and so Mrs. Bell did the honours of meeting them.

Thomas Mills apparently accompanied the tour, and took a large number of photos, but did not sign the Visitors Register.

p. 43 – ref to Thomas Mills: in Report of Mr. Alex Fraser

https://archive.org/stream/scotchtenantfarm00cana#page/n51/mode/2up



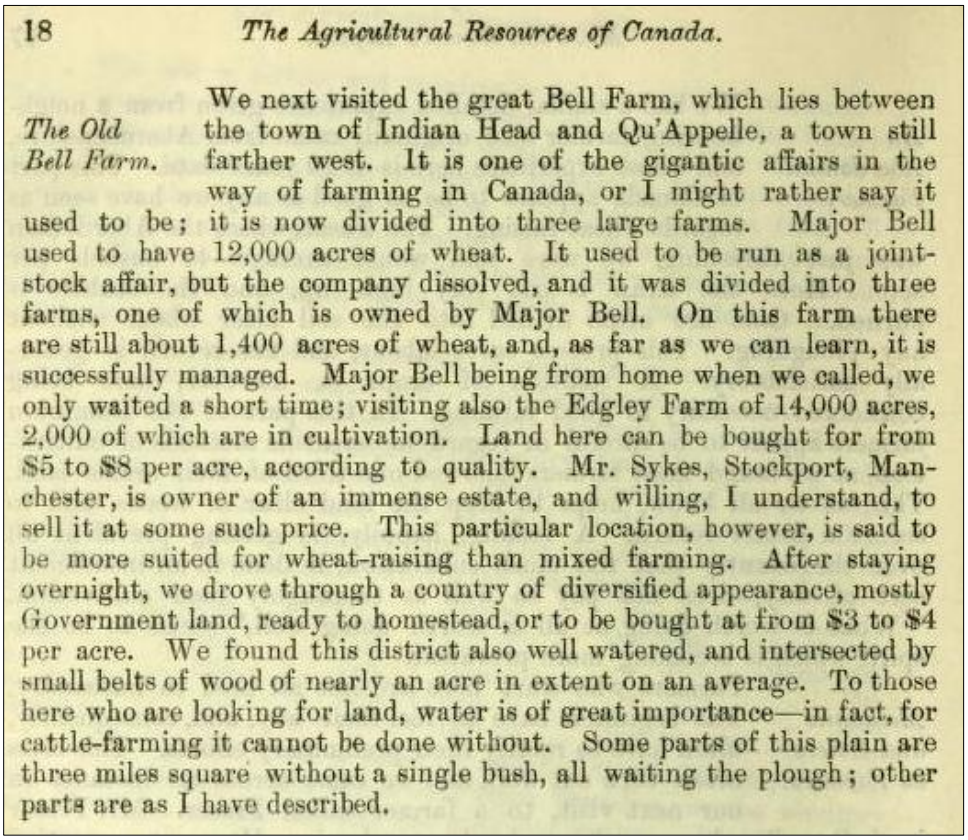
It was with a general feeling of regret that the passengers, who had passed the preceding week so pleasantly, said good-bye. During the passage, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had several conversations with the delegates, both together and separately, and imparted to us very much useful and interesting information about Canada, and how we could accomplish the objects of our mission in the best and most expeditious way. Mr. Thomas Mills, photographic artist and lanternist, Garth, Bangor, North Wales, gave an entertainment on board, showing his views of Canada, which we afterwards found to be very correct and representative. He accompanied one section of the Delegation, adding to his already copious supply of lantern slides many new and interesting views. Our portmanteaus and boxes were passed by the Custom House officers with very little difficulty, they in every case taking our word for what they contained. I may mention that on our return journey, at Liverpool, the examination was very much more strict.

45 kb

Following the journey, Messrs Steven and Fraser published their observations, as noted below:

p. 18: Bell, Brassey and Sykes/Edgeley Farms: in Report of Mr. John Steven

https://archive.org/stream/scotchtenantfarm00cana#page/n27/mode/2up



18 *The Agricultural Resources of Canada.*

The Old Bell Farm.

We next visited the great Bell Farm, which lies between the town of Indian Head and Qu'Appelle, a town still farther west. It is one of the gigantic affairs in the way of farming in Canada, or I might rather say it used to be; it is now divided into three large farms. Major Bell used to have 12,000 acres of wheat. It used to be run as a joint-stock affair, but the company dissolved, and it was divided into three farms, one of which is owned by Major Bell. On this farm there are still about 1,400 acres of wheat, and, as far as we can learn, it is successfully managed. Major Bell being from home when we called, we only waited a short time; visiting also the Edgley Farm of 14,000 acres, 2,000 of which are in cultivation. Land here can be bought for from $5 to $8 per acre, according to quality. Mr. Sykes, Stockport, Manchester, is owner of an immense estate, and willing, I understand, to sell it at some such price. This particular location, however, is said to be more suited for wheat-raising than mixed farming. After staying overnight, we drove through a country of diversified appearance, mostly Government land, ready to homestead, or to be bought at from $3 to $4 per acre. We found this district also well watered, and intersected by small belts of wood of nearly an acre in extent on an average. To those here who are looking for land, water is of great importance—in fact, for cattle-farming it cannot be done without. Some parts of this plain are three miles square without a single bush, all waiting the plough; other parts are as I have described.

87 kb

p. 64 – Bell, Brassey Farms: in Report of Alex Fraser:

https://archive.org/stream/scotchtenantfarm00cana#page/n73/mode/2up

the stones being picked up on the surface. Wages here are very much the same as in Manitoba. Before our return to Indian Head we had a drive round the country, calling on several farmers. The system of farming is to summer-fallow one-third of the land in cultivation, and take two white crops off in succession; the land is not ploughed for the second crop, the stubble being burnt off in the spring, and the seed drilled in. In this way two-thirds of the farm is in crop, and the remainder in summer fallow. So far as wheat-growing is concerned, this is the finest land we have seen, the average yield being about 30 bushels per acre, with almost entire freedom from frost or hail. Smut has sometimes appeared, but only when the farmer has failed to dress his seed with bluestone. We drove over a part of the celebrated Bell Farm, which has so often been described, and called at the house. Unfortunately, Major Bell was away from home, but we were kindly received and hospitably entertained by Mrs. Bell. The Bell and Brassey Farms occupy a great deal of the land available for wheat-growing round this immediate neighbourhood, but on both land can be bought for a very reasonable figure from $10 upwards. In the afternoon we drove to Qu'Appelle, about 10 miles west, which was reached at 4.30 p.m. Most of the journey was through the Brassey Farm. After the first couple of miles the land was unbroken, and of a lighter and more undulating nature. Many bluffs, composed of tall poplar scrub, were dotted over the land, the trail at times going through an avenue over a hundred yards in length. The principal agricultural implement agent at Qu'Appelle is a Mr. MacDonald, from Forres, N.B.

93 kb

1893 – 14 September: *Winnipeg Free Press* – reference to threshing machines & Ralph Todd

Harvest Reports.

INDIAN HEAD, Sept. 12.—Much of the grain has been stacked during the past week, and the operations will be continued with unabated vigor, weather permitting, till finished, the grain being in excellent condition. T. T. W. Bready, representative of S. P. Clarke & Co., of Winnipeg, who arrived here on the 7th inst., visited the Bell farm to view the wheat in stook which he pronounced the best he had seen during his travels this season. It is gratifying to note that the wheat in this large grain growing district is entirely free from smut. The Experimental farm here has done invaluable service in that direction by the careful and successful tests made in treating the seed grain with bluestone which our farmers have prudently applied much to their advantage and profit. All our threshing machines are now ready and will begin work in a few days. Ralph Todd, a pioneer farmer, residing eight miles northwest of Indian Head and who is known far and near as the model bachelor of the Qu'Appelle district, was interviewed by your correspondent on the 9th inst. Mr. Todd said his crop of wheat would yield over 8,000 bushels, which is an excellent showing even for a model bachelor for one season's operations.

1893 – Sept 18 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Bell returns from St. Paul, Minnesota

> "Major W.R. Bell returned yesterday from St. Paul."

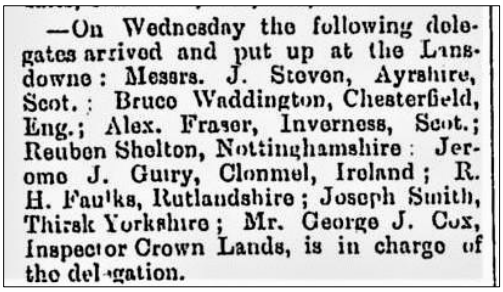
1893 – Sept 19 – *The Agricultural Resources of Canada:* Mr. T. Pitt's Report, p. 15 - visit to Bell Farm / Indigenous workers

> "Sept. 19: . . . . We also passed through the Bell Farm, originally 60,000 acres, costing $1 ½ per acre, owned by Major Bell, from Ontario; in 1882 was formed into a company. Major Bell now owns about 14,000 acres, with 4,000 in cultivation. Indians help on the Bell Farm in harvest."

1893 – Sept 20 - *The Agricultural Resources of Canada:* The Report of J.T. Franklin, p. 7 – good crops, Indigenous people working, vacant cottages, and weeds

> "Sept 20 . . . Brassey Farm . . . . This farm was a portion of the celebrated Bell Farm. We drove from this farm through the Bell Farm, but had not time to call. It was originally 60,000 acres, and Lord Brassey bought 33,000 acres of it. Major Bell now farms 14,000 acres, but only 4,000 acres are in cultivation. There are good cottages, and granaries, bult apparently upon each section, a large number of which are unoccupied upon a portion that is waste. We saw some excellent crops being carried by Indians, who camped near during the harvest; but on other portions of the estate a fire would have been a great benefit to burn the weeds. Farming on a very large scale where one cannot give a strict attention seldom answers. Take, for example, this farm, and that recently owned by Mr. Sandison at Brandon. But I think this is a very good district for corn-growing, where any man is likely to get a good return for his labour."

1893 – Sept. 21 – *Regina Leader,* p. 8 – British-Irish Delegates stay in Regina hotel on Wed. Sept. 20

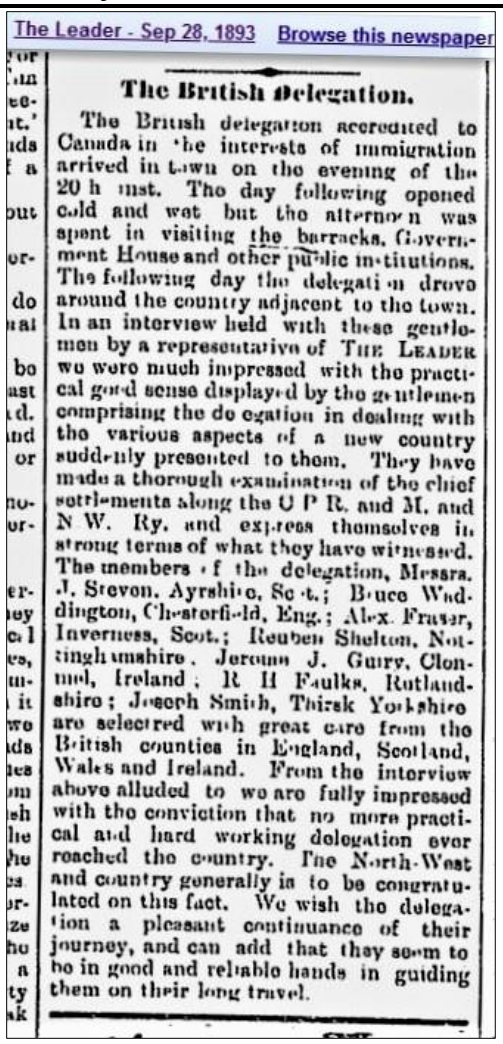


—On Wednesday the following delegates arrived and put up at the Lansdowne: Messrs. J. Steven, Ayrshire, Scot.; Bruce Waddington, Chesterfield, Eng.; Alex. Fraser, Inverness, Scot.; Reuben Shelton, Nottinghamshire: Jerome J. Guiry, Clonmel, Ireland; R. H. Faulks, Rutlandshire; Joseph Smith, Thirsk Yorkshire; Mr. George J. Cox, Inspector Crown Lands, is in charge of the delegation.

81 kb

> See also Sept. 28, 1893 report

1893 – Sept. 28 – *Regina Leader,* p. 8 – British-Irish Delegation tour Regina area



The Leader - Sep 28, 1893 Browse this newspaper

The British Delegation.

The British delegation accredited to Canada in the interests of immigration arrived in town on the evening of the 20 h inst. The day following opened cold and wet but the afternoon was spent in visiting the barracks, Government House and other public institutions. The following day the delegation drove around the country adjacent to the town. In an interview held with these gentlemen by a representative of THE LEADER we were much impressed with the practical good sense displayed by the gentlemen comprising the delegation in dealing with the various aspects of a new country suddenly presented to them. They have made a thorough examination of the chief settlements along the C P R. and M. and N W. Ry. and express themselves in strong terms of what they have witnessed. The members of the delegation, Messrs. J. Strevon, Ayrshire, Scot.; Bruce Waddington, Chesterfield, Eng.; Alex. Fraser, Inverness, Scot.; Reuben Shelton, Nottinghamshire, Jerome J. Guiry, Clonmel, Ireland; R H Faulks, Rutlandshire; Joseph Smith, Thirsk Yorkshire are selected with great care from the British counties in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. From the interview above alluded to we are fully impressed with the conviction that no more practical and hard working delegation ever reached the country. The North-West and country generally is to be congratulated on this fact. We wish the delegation a pleasant continuance of their journey, and can add that they seem to be in good and reliable hands in guiding them on their long travel.

151 kb

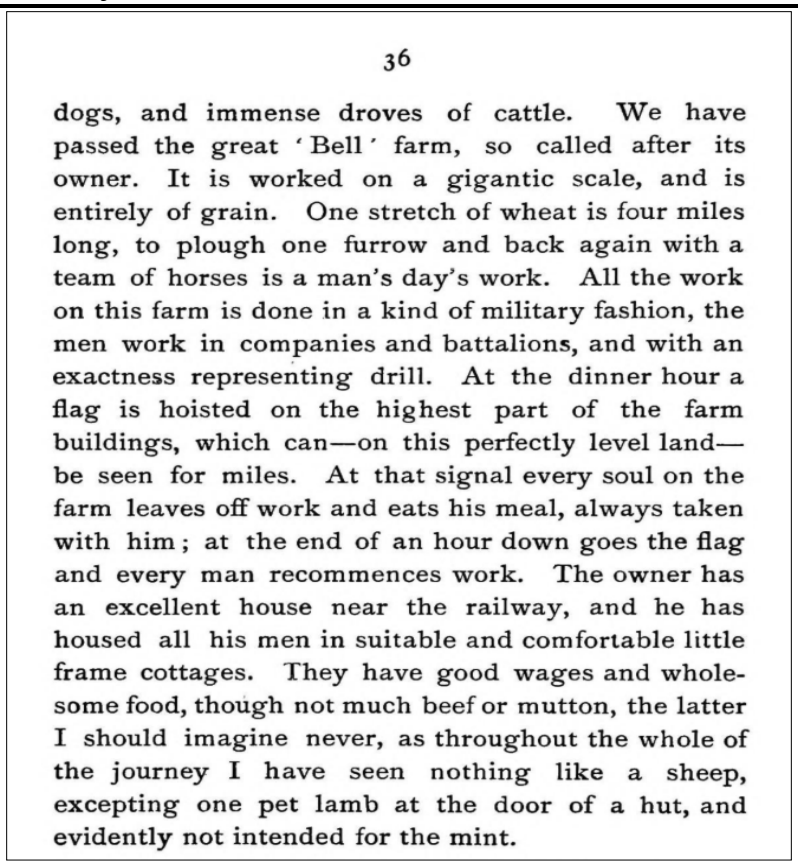
1893 – Oct. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

> "Major Bell is erecting another elevator on a site near the one which was recently destroyed by fire. The new elevator will have a capacity of 30,000 bushels."

1893 – Oct. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Court Case: Thompson for stealing Bell's decoy ducks

> "**SUPREME COURT** – There was a regular sitting of the Supreme Court held at Qu'Appelle on Tuesday last, Judge Richardson presiding. The following were heard:
>
> Queen vs James Thompson. In this case Thompson was charged at the instance of Major Bell with stealing decoy ducks. Mr. Scott was Crown prosecutor and Mr. Smith and Mr. Secord for defendant. Defendant was acquitted."

1893 – October 9 – Flying the flag at the Bell Farm in the 1890s



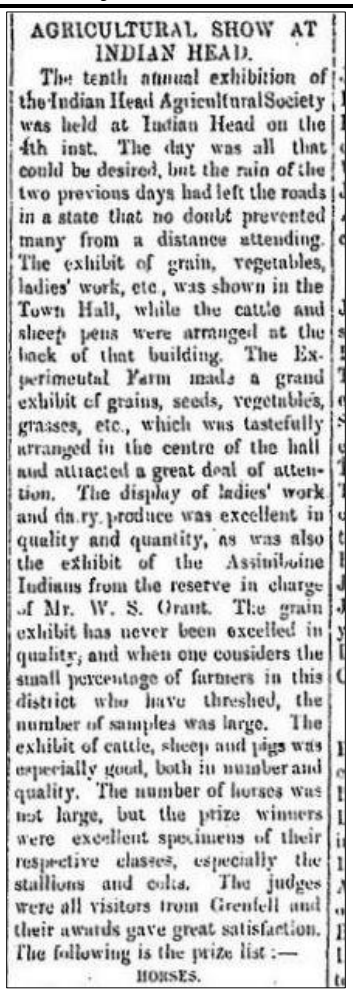
36

dogs, and immense droves of cattle. We have passed the great 'Bell' farm, so called after its owner. It is worked on a gigantic scale, and is entirely of grain. One stretch of wheat is four miles long, to plough one furrow and back again with a team of horses is a man's day's work. All the work on this farm is done in a kind of military fashion, the men work in companies and battalions, and with an exactness representing drill. At the dinner hour a flag is hoisted on the highest part of the farm buildings, which can—on this perfectly level land—be seen for miles. At that signal every soul on the farm leaves off work and eats his meal, always taken with him; at the end of an hour down goes the flag and every man recommences work. The owner has an excellent house near the railway, and he has housed all his men in suitable and comfortable little frame cottages. They have good wages and wholesome food, though not much beef or mutton, the latter I should imagine never, as throughout the whole of the journey I have seen nothing like a sheep, excepting one pet lamb at the door of a hut, and evidently not intended for the mint.

226 kb

(Source: *Here a Little and There a Little,* by Agnes Simpson, 1894, p. 36.)

1893 – Oct. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1 – Agricultural Show at Indian Head – Major Bell won 17 prizes for: horses (11), cattle (2) and grain (4)



AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT INDIAN HEAD.

The tenth annual exhibition of the Indian Head Agricultural Society was held at Indian Head on the 4th inst. The day was all that could be desired, but the rain of the two previous days had left the roads in a state that no doubt prevented many from a distance attending. The exhibit of grain, vegetables, ladies' work, etc., was shown in the Town Hall, while the cattle and sheep pens were arranged at the back of that building. The Experimental Farm made a grand exhibit of grains, seeds, vegetables, grasses, etc., which was tastefully arranged in the centre of the hall and attracted a great deal of attention. The display of ladies' work and dairy produce was excellent in quality and quantity, as was also the exhibit of the Assiniboine Indians from the reserve in charge of Mr. W. S. Grant. The grain exhibit has never been excelled in quality, and when one considers the small percentage of farmers in this district who have threshed, the number of samples was large. The exhibit of cattle, sheep and pigs was especially good, both in number and quality. The number of horses was not large, but the prize winners were excellent specimens of their respective classes, especially the stallions and colts. The judges were all visitors from Grenfell and their awards gave great satisfaction. The following is the prize list :—

HORSES.

HORSES.

Blood horses—Stallion any age, W R Bell.

Heavy draught (registered)—Stallion, W R Bell. Brood mare, W R Bell first and second.

Heavy draught—Stallion three years old or over, J Glenn. Mare with foal at side, J Oldeman, J Balfour. Filly or gelding three years old, W Kirkland. Filly or gelding two years old, W R Bell first and second. Filly or gelding one year old, W R Bell first and second. Team, J Balfour.

General purpose—Stallion three years old, J Glenn. Stallion two years old, W H Vidal second. Brood mare with foal at side, J Glenn, J Whittingham. Filly or gelding three years old, W Dickson. Filly or gelding one year old, W R Bell first and second. Foal of 1893, J Whittingham, E Williamson. Team, J Boothe, E Williamson.

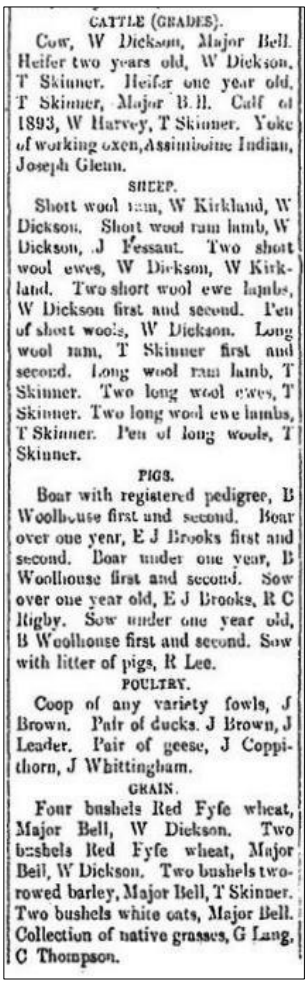
Roadsters—Mare with foal at side, W J Harrop, Major Bell. Filly or gelding three years old, W Dickson. Filly or gelding two years old, J Tate. Foal of 1893, Major Bell, W J Harrop.

Carriage and saddle horses—Pair of carriage horses in harness, C H Bousteed, J Glenn. Saddle pony, J Harvey, E Williamson.

CATTLE (REGISTERED).

Durham bull any age, T Skinner, R C Rigby. Durham bull of 1893, T Skinner first and second. Durham cow, T Skinner first and second. Bull other than Durham, A J Parker, T Skinner. Cow other than Durham, B Sweats. Heifer other than Durham, two years old, T Skinner. Heifer other than Durham, one year old, T Skinner.

CATTLE (GRADES).



CATTLE (GRADES).

Cow, W Dickson, Major Bell. Heifer two years old, W Dickson, T Skinner. Heifer one year old, T Skinner, Major Bell. Calf of 1893, W Harvey, T Skinner. Yoke of working oxen, Assiniboine Indian, Joseph Glenn.

SHEEP.

Short wool ram, W Kirkland, W Dickson. Short wool ram lamb, W Dickson, J Fessant. Two short wool ewes, W Dickson, W Kirkland. Two short wool ewe lambs, W Dickson first and second. Pen of short wools, W Dickson. Long wool ram, T Skinner first and second. Long wool ram lamb, T Skinner. Two long wool ewes, T Skinner. Two long wool ewe lambs, T Skinner. Pen of long wools, T Skinner.

PIGS.

Boar with registered pedigree, B Woolhouse first and second. Boar over one year, E J Brooks first and second. Boar under one year, B Woolhouse first and second. Sow over one year old, E J Brooks, R C Rigby. Sow under one year old, B Woolhouse first and second. Sow with litter of pigs, R Lee.

POULTRY.

Coop of any variety fowls, J Brown. Pair of ducks, J Brown, J Leader. Pair of geese, J Coppithorn, J Whittingham.

GRAIN.

Four bushels Red Fyfe wheat, Major Bell, W Dickson. Two bushels Red Fyfe wheat, Major Bell, W Dickson. Two bushels two-rowed barley, Major Bell, T Skinner. Two bushels white oats, Major Bell. Collection of native grasses, G Lang, C Thompson.

58 kb 58 kb 85 kb

1893 – Nov. 22 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major Bell staying at the Manitoba Hotel

> "Among the arrivals at the Manitoba which seem to have a connection with the fight are Major Bell of Indian Head, ..." [FRANK: The "fight" likely refers to a political contest.]

1893 – October - _____ - Lord and Lady Aberdeen cross Canada in Oct on first tour as Governor-General

– no reference to a stop at Indian Head yet located.

1893 – Dec. 7 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major and Mrs. Bell arrive in Winnipeg from Indian Head

> "PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell arrived from the west last evening."

1893 – Dec. 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 5 – Major Bell to Ottawa on business

> "**PERSONAL PARAGRAPHDS.** . . . . . Major Bell has left for Ottawa on a business trip."

1893 – Dec. 13 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1 – Major and Mrs. Bell in Winnipeg en route to England

"THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT . . . . . Major Bell, of Indian Head, N.W.T., and Mrs. Bell are at the Russell. They leave for England via New York."

1893 – Dec. 14 – *Brandon Mail,* p. 1 – Death of Thomas Routledge

"**Death of Mr. Thomas Routledge**. – It is with extreme sorrow that we announce the death of Mr. Routledge, of Virden. The deceased gentleman accompanied by his partner, the Hon. Mr. Bouverie left Virden a short time ago en route for England. On the train Mr. Routledge burst a blood vessel and had shortly after his arrival in Winnipeg, to be taken to the General Hospital. He never rallied and his death took place on Tuesday last.

The deceased gentleman had a host of friends and held many prominent positions. At one time he was manager of the Bell Farm. Subsequently he joined the Hon. Mr. Bouverie in their large farm at Boss Hill. He commanded "A" Troop of Dragoons raised at Virden till a short time ago when he resigned.

The deceased gentleman's funeral will take place from the Armoury Winnipeg, today."

1893 – Dec. 21 – *Regina Leader*, p. 4 – Death of Capt. Routledge

"DEATH OF CAPTAIN ROUTLEDGE Nothing that has occurred in the Territories has caused us so much pain as the death of Captain Routledge of Virden. We met him first in 1882 when he was manager for Major Bell. A finer young fellow physically, morally and intellectually it would be hard to find, if you travelled the world over. His goodness of heart beamed out from an open countenance full of intelligence and free from guile. He was about to visit the Old Country. At Winnipeg bleeding of the lungs set in. He went to the hospital. Becoming delirious he evaded the nurses and walked out into the snowy, freezing air and of course got frozen. He had great faith in the North-West which in his death has sustained a great loss."

1893 or 1894 – Major Bell travels to Calgary

[Sometime time during 1893 or 1894 Major Bell was in Calgary and had a formal posed photo taken by Robert Randolph Bruce. This photo was one of a series that Bruce took of important Western personalities (almost all men), sitting in the same chair and background screen, and with a stuffed owl on the left. As many of these men were members of Calgary's Ranchmen's Club, it is possible that the Major was also a member.]

Source: Prov. Archives of Saskatchewan: Bell family collection

1894

1894 – Henderson's Manitoba and NWT Gazetteer and Directory, p. 533 -first mention of Major Bell in Henderson's "

"INDIAN HEAD - Bell, W.R. , Bell farm"

1894 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __ – check for details

[W. Syme Redpath is the new manager of The Qu'Appelle Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd, and the *Qu'Appelle Progress*.] The paper "will run on Liberal-Conservative principles."

1894 – Alfred Scrimshaw began work at Bell Farm (source: *Regina Leader* obit: 4 Oct, 1909)

Indian Head. From Our Own Correspondent. INDIAN HEAD, Oct. 2 – Alfred Scrimshaw, a former resident of Indian Head, died at Moose Jaw this morning, and will be buried here on Monday. Mr. Scrimshaw came here in 1894 from England, and after working a few years on the Bell Farm, was engaged as gardener on the Experimental Farm, where he remained until three years ago [1906], when he went to Regina as gardener for the C.P.R. Shortly afterwards he removed to Moose Jaw to work in the nursery there.

1894 – Jan. 6 – *The Colonies and India*, p. 10 – Comment from Major Bell on reduced farm

> "Major Bell, the manager of the once-famous Bell Farm, at Indian Head, in the North-west Territories, is in London. He now cultivates about 2,000 acres, the balance of the holding having been sold to Lord Brassey and others. Major Bell says that his crops were splendid last year – in fact, that the harvest of 1893 was the best he has known. He returns to Canada in March."

1894 – January 14 – *St. Paul Globe*: - until Jan. 25, 1894 – review again to see if any reference to Major Bell other than the drawing.

Major Bell is among a contingent of 36 curling rinks competing at St. Paul. 21 of the curlers are illustrated on the front page, including the Major. More curlers shown in later editions.

http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90059522/1894-01-14/ed-1/seq-1/

Jan. 19 – curling sketches:

http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90059522/1894-01-19/ed-1/seq-1/

Jan 20, 1894 – exterior view of the rink

http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90059522/1894-01-20/ed-1/seq-1/

1894 – Jan. 20 - *Winnipeg Tribune* , p. __

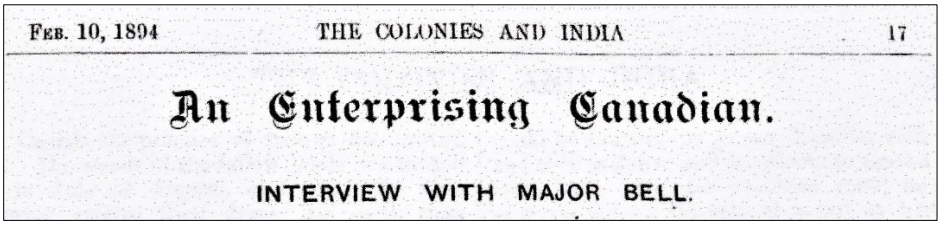
"Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in London, Eng., staying at 33 Wimpole St."

(99 KB)

1894 – Jan. 25 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – Bell in England (published in Forty-Five Years Ago – Jan 25, 1939)

> "Major Bell, of the gigantic Bell farm at Indian Head, was in England, and British interest in western Canada was evidently of the keenest, as everybody seemed to be interviewing the Major, and accounts of his big farming enterprise filled the British papers arriving on the Free Press exchange desk."

1894 – Feb. 10 – *The Colonies and India*, p. 17-18 – Interview with Major Bell: An Enterprising Canadian + sketch

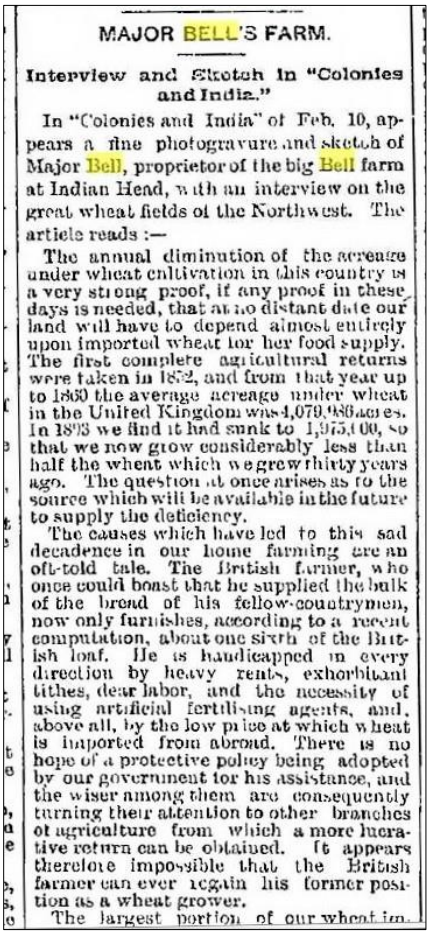


FEB. 10, 1894 THE COLONIES AND INDIA 17

An Enterprising Canadian.

INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR BELL.

1894 – Feb. 24 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 3 – Major Bell's Farm – "A true Canadian, of the old loyalist stock" [United Empire Loyalist ?] based on Feb. 10 interview for "*The Colonies and India*" [NOTE: the text is not identical, as at least the last two paragraphs are missing. These are reproduced as "Parts 4 and 5", below.] [See also March 15, 1894 for same article in *Medicine Hat News.*]



MAJOR BELL'S FARM.

Interview and Sketch in "Colonies and India."

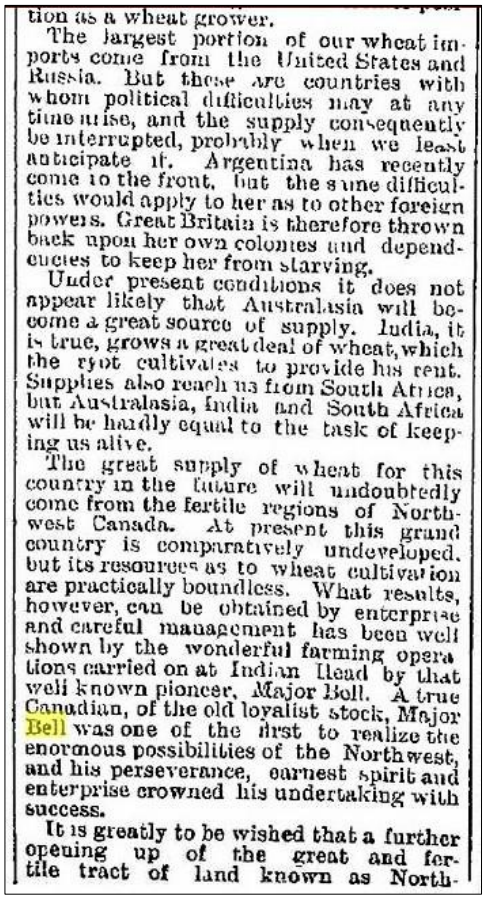
In "Colonies and India" of Feb. 10, appears a fine photogravure and sketch of Major Bell, proprietor of the big Bell farm at Indian Head, with an interview on the great wheat fields of the Northwest. The article reads :—

The annual diminution of the acreage under wheat cultivation in this country is a very strong proof, if any proof in these days is needed, that at no distant date our land will have to depend almost entirely upon imported wheat for her food supply. The first complete agricultural returns were taken in 1852, and from that year up to 1860 the average acreage under wheat in the United Kingdom was 4,079,986 acres. In 1893 we find it had sunk to 1,975,000, so that we now grow considerably less than half the wheat which we grew thirty years ago. The question at once arises as to the source which will be available in the future to supply the deficiency.

The causes which have led to this sad decadence in our home farming are an oft-told tale. The British farmer, who once could boast that he supplied the bulk of the bread of his fellow-countrymen, now only furnishes, according to a recent computation, about one sixth of the British loaf. He is handicapped in every direction by heavy rents, exhorbitant tithes, dear labor, and the necessity of using artificial fertilising agents, and, above all, by the low price at which wheat is imported from abroad. There is no hope of a protective policy being adopted by our government for his assistance, and the wiser among them are consequently turning their attention to other branches of agriculture from which a more lucrative return can be obtained. It appears therefore impossible that the British farmer can ever regain his former position as a wheat grower.

The largest portion of our wheat im-

Part 1 191 kb



tion as a wheat grower.

The largest portion of our wheat imports come from the United States and Russia. But these are countries with whom political difficulties may at any time arise, and the supply consequently be interrupted, probably when we least anticipate it. Argentina has recently come to the front, but the same difficulties would apply to her as to other foreign powers. Great Britain is therefore thrown back upon her own colonies and dependencies to keep her from starving.

Under present conditions it does not appear likely that Australasia will become a great source of supply. India, it is true, grows a great deal of wheat, which the ryot cultivates to provide his rent. Supplies also reach us from South Africa, but Australasia, India and South Africa will be hardly equal to the task of keeping us alive.

The great supply of wheat for this country in the future will undoubtedly come from the fertile regions of Northwest Canada. At present this grand country is comparatively undeveloped, but its resources as to wheat cultivation are practically boundless. What results, however, can be obtained by enterprise and careful management has been well shown by the wonderful farming operations carried on at Indian Head by that well known pioneer, Major Bell. A true Canadian, of the old loyalist stock, Major Bell was one of the first to realize the enormous possibilities of the Northwest, and his perseverance, earnest spirit and enterprise crowned his undertaking with success.

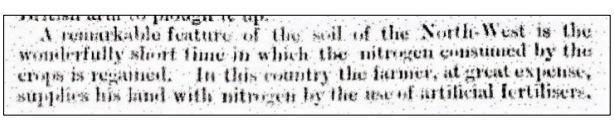
It is greatly to be wished that a further opening up of the great and fertile tract of land known as North-

Part 2 183 kb

west Canada could be brought about. Yet immigration is very small at present, and the thousands upon thousands of acres which might supply, not only the United Kingdom, but the world, with wheat lie untended, and untouched by the plough. English enterprise and English capital should not be wanting to bring about a transformation. From no part of the world could Great Britain obtain her food with more ease and less expense, and the intense and gallant spirit of loyalty which Canadians have always displayed towards the mother country would be strengthened by increased and developing trade relations, of far greater magnitude than those of the past. We do not believe in the possibility of a spread of the disloyal spirit which a small body of interested politicians are endeavouring to disseminate in the Dominion. Canadian loyalty has been tried and proved in the furnace again and again, and has ever emerged the brighter for the trial.

Major Bell, who recently favored our representative with an interview, speaks in the highest terms of the future capabilities of the corn tracts of the Northwest. The rich black soil lies ready for the plough, unhampered by the timber which the settler in the eastern provinces was compelled to remove by years of arduous toil. It only needs the sturdy British arm to plough it up.

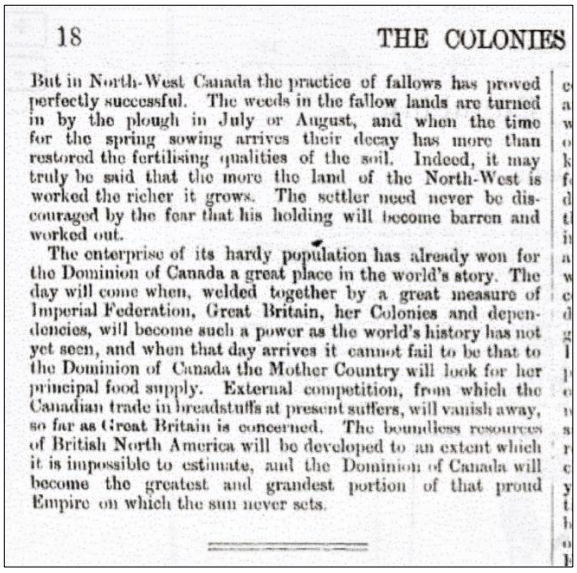
Part 3 164 kb



British arm to plough it up.

A remarkable feature of the soil of the North-West is the wonderfully short time in which the nitrogen consumed by the crops is regained. In this country the farmer, at great expense, supplies his land with nitrogen by the use of artificial fertilisers.

Part 4 123 kb



18 THE COLONIES

But in North-West Canada the practice of fallows has proved perfectly successful. The weeds in the fallow lands are turned in by the plough in July or August, and when the time for the spring sowing arrives their decay has more than restored the fertilising qualities of the soil. Indeed, it may truly be said that the more the land of the North-West is worked the richer it grows. The settler need never be discouraged by the fear that his holding will become barren and worked out.

The enterprise of its hardy population has already won for the Dominion of Canada a great place in the world's story. The day will come when, welded together by a great measure of Imperial Federation, Great Britain, her Colonies and dependencies, will become such a power as the world's history has not yet seen, and when that day arrives it cannot fail to be that to the Dominion of Canada the Mother Country will look for her principal food supply. External competition, from which the Canadian trade in breadstuffs at present suffers, will vanish away, so far as Great Britain is concerned. The boundless resources of British North America will be developed to an extent which it is impossible to estimate, and the Dominion of Canada will become the greatest and grandest portion of that proud Empire on which the sun never sets.

Part 5 577 kb

1894 – March 6 - *Winnipeg Tribune* – Major and Katherine Bell return from England

> "Major Bell, of Indian Head, and Mrs. Bell, who are on their way back from England, left for Toronto this morning." – Check to see where article was printed – maybe in Ottawa or Montreal?

1894 – March 6 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press* , P. 7- fox hunt at or near the Bell Farm

> "On the 28th of last month a splendid run was enjoyed with the hounds by those who were tempted into the saddle by the warm weather. Lupus was found near Major Bell's south fence and pursued a devious course through deepish snow and treacherous coulees for seven or eight miles and was run into by the dogs, none too soon, as the riders, horses and hounds themselves had just about had enough of it. A jack rabbit was also killed, after a short burst over some ploughed land."

1894 – March 12 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major and Mrs. Bell return from England

> "PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell have returned from England."
>
> And later:
>
> "Major and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, returned yesterday from England."

1894 – March 12 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Major and Mrs. Bell back from, trip to England.

> "**PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS** . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, returned yesterday from spending the winter in England."

1894 – March 15 – *Medicine Hat News*, p. 4 – [Basically the same article as Feb. 24, 1894 in *Manitoba Free Press*]

1894 – March 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4

> "Major and Mrs. Bell have reached Winnipeg on their return from England."
>
> "Mr. Sherwood, manager of the Bell Farm, has returned to Indian Head, looking hale and hearty."

1894 – March 15– *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major & Mrs. Bell return from England

> "Major and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, have returned from spending the winter in England."

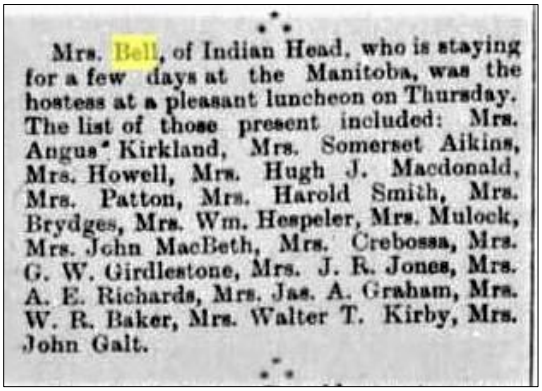
1894 – March 16 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 2 - Major and Mrs. Bell at Manitoba Government House (FRANK: but which Major Bell?)

> "GOVERNMENT HOUSE, List of Callers since Thursday . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell, ..."

1894 – March 16 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Government House FRANK: but which Major Bell?)

> "**GOVERNMENT HOSE** . . . . . Following is a list of callers at Government House since last Thursday . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell . . . . . ."

1894 – March 17 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Mrs. Bell of Indian Head at two social events in Winnipeg.



Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, who is staying for a few days at the Manitoba, was the hostess at a pleasant luncheon on Thursday. The list of those present included: Mrs. Angus Kirkland, Mrs. Somerset Aikins, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Hugh J. Macdonald, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Harold Smith, Mrs. Brydges, Mrs. Wm. Hespeler, Mrs. Mulock, Mrs. John MacBeth, Mrs. Crebossa, Mrs. G. W. Girdlestone, Mrs. J. R. Jones, Mrs. A. E. Richards, Mrs. Jas. A. Graham, Mrs. W. R. Baker, Mrs. Walter T. Kirby, Mrs. John Galt.

An impromptu afternoon tea was given on Thursday by Mrs. Jas. A. Graham, Kennedy street, in honor of Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head. The tea table looked very pretty in its decoration of tulips and ferns, and was presided over by Mrs. Tuck, assisted by Miss Baker and Miss McDermid. Mrs. Graham wore a dress of pale grey and pink. The guests were Mrs. Hugh J. Macdonald, Mrs. Wm. Hespeler, Mrs. Ewart, Mrs. Moffat and Miss Baker (Brockville), Mrs. Hugh Sutherland, Miss Sutherland and Miss Jennie Sutherland, Mrs. R. H. Agur, Miss Forsyth, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Brydges and Miss Brydges, Mrs. Cornell, Mrs. Richardson and Miss Eastman, Mrs. Frank Peters, Mrs. J. R. Jones and Miss Dennistoun, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Wilson and Miss Edith Wilson, Mrs. Harry Macdonell.

66 kb & 89 kb

1894 – March 19 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press,* p. 8 – Bell leaves Winnipeg for Indian Head

"PERSONAL . . . Major Bell of Indian Head returned west yesterday . . . . ."

1894 – March 19 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 5 – Major Bell goes back to Indian Head.

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, returned west yesterday."

1894 – March 27 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major and Mrs. Bell visit with Col. Irvine.

"FROM RURAL DISTRICTS – Stoney Mountain – Major Bell and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, paid Colonel Irvine a visit on Saturday last."

1894 – April – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments
307	April 20, 1894	*W. Whyte*	Winnipeg	Manitoba
308	"	R.J. *Whitla – 1st goose shot*	Winnipeg	Manitoba – see Aug 23, 1893 Qu'Appelle Vidette for note on duck hunt.
309	"	C.N. Milestone	Moose Jaw	Saskatchewan

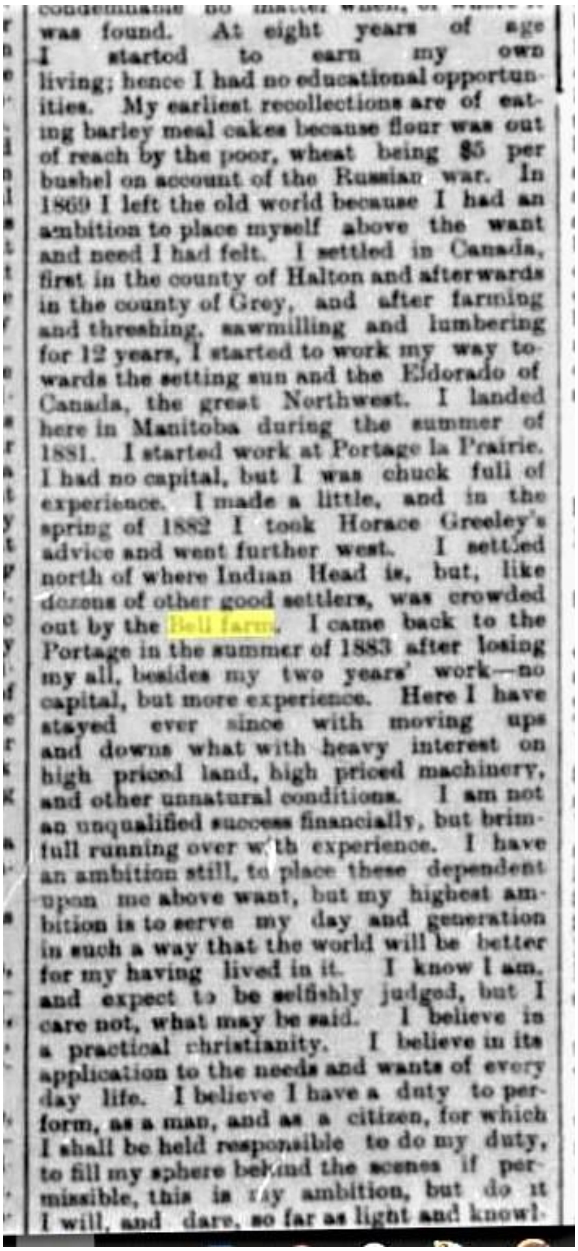
1894 – April 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

"Major Bell has secured the contract to supply 8,999 bushels of seed wheat, to be distributed by the government."

1894 – April 16 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press,* p. 8 – Clydesdale and Shire mares from Walrond Ranche Company, Alberta

"The Walrond Ranche company of Alberta, have sold for good figures to Major Bell, of the Bell farm, eight teams of Alberta bred Clydesdale and Shire mares."

1894 – April 21 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Charles Braithwaite, Bell Farm squatter, discusses past life



was found. At eight years of age I started to earn my own living; hence I had no educational opportunities. My earliest recollections are of eating barley meal cakes because flour was out of reach by the poor, wheat being $5 per bushel on account of the Russian war. In 1869 I left the old world because I had an ambition to place myself above the want and need I had felt. I settled in Canada, first in the county of Halton and afterwards in the county of Grey, and after farming and threshing, sawmilling and lumbering for 12 years, I started to work my way towards the setting sun and the Eldorado of Canada, the great Northwest. I landed here in Manitoba during the summer of 1881. I started work at Portage la Prairie. I had no capital, but I was chuck full of experience. I made a little, and in the spring of 1882 I took Horace Greeley's advice and went further west. I settled north of where Indian Head is, but, like dozens of other good settlers, was crowded out by the Bell farm. I came back to the Portage in the summer of 1883 after losing my all, besides my two years' work—no capital, but more experience. Here I have stayed ever since with moving ups and downs what with heavy interest on high priced land, high priced machinery, and other unnatural conditions. I am not an unqualified success financially, but brimfull running over with experience. I have an ambition still, to place these dependent upon me above want, but my highest ambition is to serve my day and generation in such a way that the world will be better for my having lived in it. I know I am, and expect to be selfishly judged, but I care not, what may be said. I believe in a practical christianity. I believe in its application to the needs and wants of every day life. I believe I have a duty to perform, as a man, and as a citizen, for which I shall be held responsible to do my duty, to fill my sphere behind the scenes if permissible, this is my ambition, but do it I will, and dare, so far as light and knowl-

132 kb get rest of article

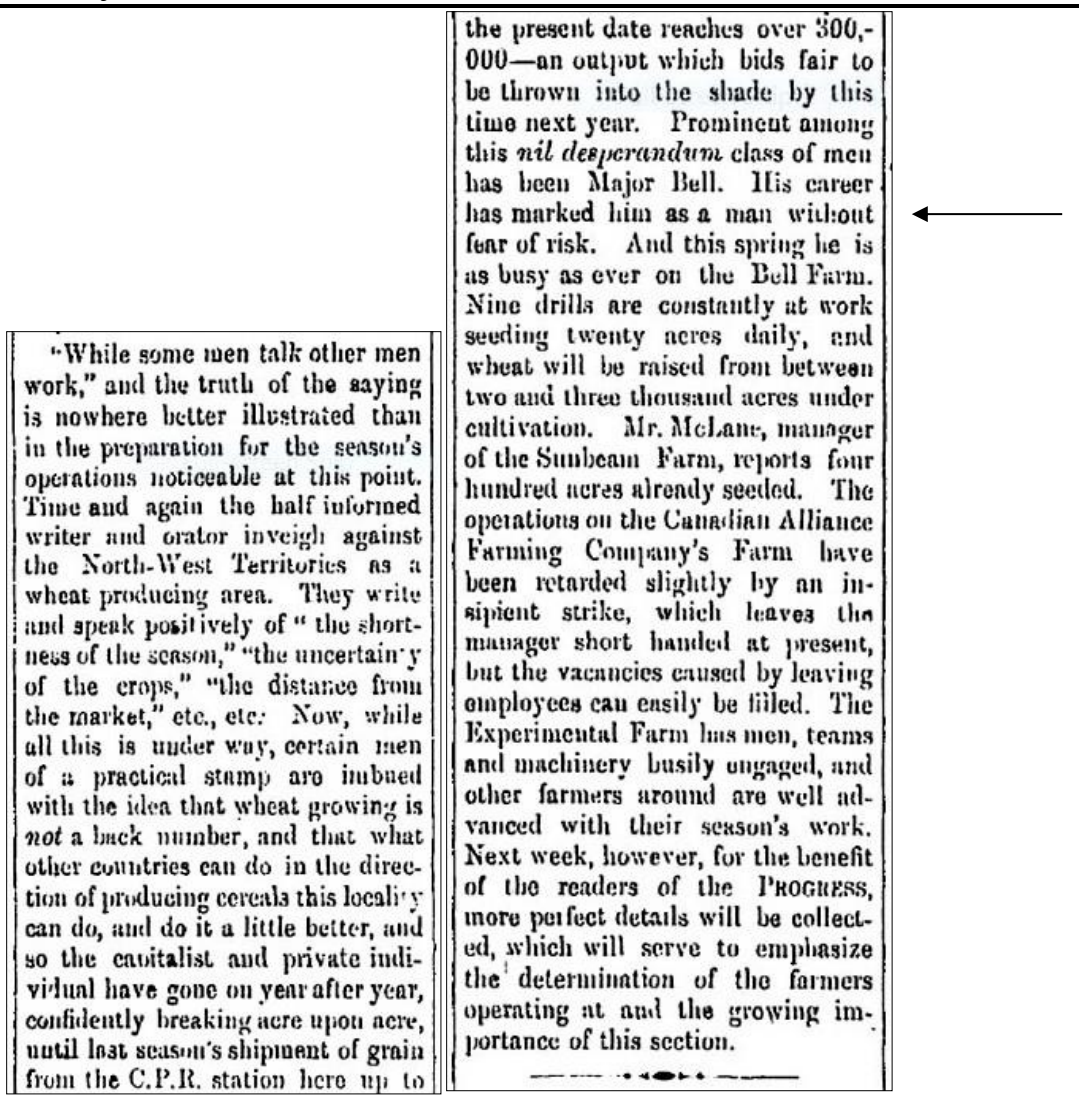
1894 – 24 April – *Dundee Courier* –

report from Mr. Andrew Osler – who visited the Bell Farm on August 10, 1893. See that date for further details

1894 – April 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 4 – Major Bell – "A man without fear of risk"

"General Supt. Whyte, Assistant Supt. Milestone, of the C.P.R., and Mr. Jas. A. Whitelaw, merchant, Winnipeg, were guests at the Bell Farm this week. They departed Tuesday morning, their private car being attached to the east-bound train."

And later . . . .



"While some men talk other men work," and the truth of the saying is nowhere better illustrated than in the preparation for the season's operations noticeable at this point. Time and again the half informed writer and orator inveigh against the North-West Territories as a wheat producing area. They write and speak positively of "the shortness of the season," "the uncertainty of the crops," "the distance from the market," etc., etc. Now, while all this is under way, certain men of a practical stamp are imbued with the idea that wheat growing is *not* a back number, and that what other countries can do in the direction of producing cereals this locality can do, and do it a little better, and so the capitalist and private individual have gone on year after year, confidently breaking acre upon acre, until last season's shipment of grain from the C.P.R. station here up to the present date reaches over 300,000—an output which bids fair to be thrown into the shade by this time next year. Prominent among this *nil desperandum* class of men has been Major Bell. His career has marked him as a man without fear of risk. And this spring he is as busy as ever on the Bell Farm. Nine drills are constantly at work seeding twenty acres daily, and wheat will be raised from between two and three thousand acres under cultivation. Mr. McLane, manager of the Sunbeam Farm, reports four hundred acres already seeded. The operations on the Canadian Alliance Farming Company's Farm have been retarded slightly by an insipient strike, which leaves the manager short handed at present, but the vacancies caused by leaving employees can easily be filled. The Experimental Farm has men, teams and machinery busily engaged, and other farmers around are well advanced with their season's work. Next week, however, for the benefit of the readers of the PROGRESS, more perfect details will be collected, which will serve to emphasize the determination of the farmers operating at and the growing importance of this section.

(part 1) (part 2)

1894 – May 3 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __

Indian Head. "Bricks are to be manufactured here this summer."

"'Whom the Gods love most they favor' – a trite saying illustrative of the good fortune that hovers over some people. Thus, one day last week, within an hour, Major Bell, unaccompanied, shot no less than 26 geese on the stubble of the Bell Farm."

Bell Farm, 1,600 acres seeded; Sunbeam Farm, 700 acres of the 800 to be sown.

1894 – May 8 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 6 – [An extensive article relating to the demise of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba, which was operated by various former directors of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, and still held some Bell Farming Company debts. While the entire article is relevant to a better understanding of the Bell Farm's financial operations, only an extract is provided below, as it relates specifically to the Bell Farm:]

"MACARTHUR TO FERGUSON. Ex-President of the Commercial Bank Addresses a Letter to the Shareholders. . . . . It will thus be seen that no considerable loss should arise to the bank from any portion of these accounts, except the account of the Bell Farm Company, and any

loss that may result on any of them will be amply provided for out of the additional securities which I transferred for the purpose of protecting them, amounting to about $70,000, in addition to the $30,000 first transferred.

Mr. Ferguson's estimated loss on these accounts of $70,000 to $75,000 exists only in hi sown imagination . . . . . "

1894 – May 10 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

"'I see nothing to prevent sheep raising proving a success around Indian Head,' remarked a dealer the other day, who has wintered a band of 188 on the Bell Farm. 'Mine came through well, and the increase this year is 60 lambs. The carcasses net me 10 cents per pound dressed, and there is always good local demand.'"

1894 – May 17 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4

"**INDIAN HEAD -** Barley is being sown on the Bell Farm."

1894 – May 17 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

"Local Happenings. Major Bell was in town yesterday afternoon."
(: "town" means Fort Qu'Appelle).

1894 – May 24 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. 4

Victoria Day: "Ovington, Major Bell's nomination, entered for the mile running race at Qu'Appelle on the 24th with H.A. Belson, Grenfell, up, is expected to cut out some hot work for the field, and to carry its owner's colors past the judge's stand, a winner, with plenty of daylight to spare."

1894 – May 31 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Ovington wins horse race at Qu'Appelle

BICYCLE RACES.

½ mile green race—1 W. Davidson, 2 C. W. Peters, 3 R. B. Fergusson.

2 mile race (open)—1 J. C. Pope, 2 W. Davidson, 3 R. B. Fergusson.

HORSE RACES.

Green trot—1 Belle W., 2 Birdie B., 3 Robert G., 2.59½.

Pony race—1 Polo, 2 Dick, 3 Babe, 54.

Running one mile—1 Ovington, 2 Eclipse, 3 Bay Jack, 1.59.

Open Trot—1 Dick French, 2 Beechwood, 3 Dan J., 2.36.

In the evening a grand ball was held in the government building which was attended by a large number of visitor and towns people. The music was furnished by a string band, and the dancing was greatly enjoyed. The western visitors returned home on No. 1 express after having enjoped a good day's sport and carrying with them a fair share of the prizes in the different events. Qu Appelle, owing to its beautiful situation, is a favorite place for picnics from outside points, and is unrivalled in this respect by any other place in Assiniboia. Its citizens always extend a harty welcome to the excursionists who come here to spend a day in the cool shade of the groves and bluffs.

138 kb

1894 – May 31 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4

"Major Bell is in Winnipeg."

1894 – June 2 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 3 - Ovington wins horse race at Qu'Appelle

THE 24TH AT QU'APPELLE.

How Her Majesty's Birthday Was Observed by the Townspeople.

QU' APPELLE STATION, May 26.—The 24th will long be remembered by the townspeople here and those who flocked in from all parts to enjoy themselves, and at the same time to do honor to the natal day of that gracious lady, whose thoughts are ever with her subjects at home and abroad, Queen Victoria. The weather was magnificent; a genial sun and balmy breeze, combined with the fact that many of the mosquitoes had business elsewhere, made the spirits of all rise and prepared them to enjoy thoroughly the programme arranged by the sports' committee, whose efforts culminated in the most perfect success. The Regina band attended, and after playing the national antham on the market, discoursed popular pieces for an hour or so. The competitions in running, jumping, etc., were decided before noon. After dinner the race course was thronged long before the horses appeared. The racing was good in every particular, the management perfect and the track in good condition. Following is the result of the different races:

161 kb

condition. Following is the result of the different races:

Green trot and pace, won by Mr. E. Warner's Belle W.

Mile, running, won by Major Bell's Ovington.

Open trot, won by Mr. James Scott's Dick French. Time 2 36, 2 42, 2.37½.

Pony race, one-half mile, won by Mr. G. S. Davidson's Polo. Time 54, 57, 57.

One mile bicycle races, won by W. Davidson.

Two mile bicycle race, won by Mr. Pope, Regina.

After the races Mr. Scott afforded a great treat for those interested in trotting in an exhibition mile trotted by Dick French. The grand horse seemed to know that something was expected of him, and a more perfectly even movement and steadiness have never been witnessed here. Many were surprised to find that the time was 2 25½ as he seemed to have been covering the ground at a much faster gait. In the evening the town hall was lighted up and a most enjoyable time was spent, and the dancing did not cease till the early morning. Enough cannot be said in praise of the managing committee under whose arrangement there was not the slightest hitch. All seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, and there was not a single individual who showed the slightest sign of attempting to enjoy himself too much.

Last week a nasty accident happened

164 kb

1894 – June 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

["Indian Head Annual Meeting" Indian Head Liberal-Conservative Association election of officers includes W.R. Bell. Then, under Indian Head, Angus McKay chaired this meeting, with W.R. Bell elected president, W.H. Stephens 1st vice president, 2nd vice president James Conn, and secretary treasurer A.W. Sherwood.] – check for details

"Major Bell went west recently accompanying Supt. Whyte on the latter's trip to the scene of the landslides that occurred on the CPR in the mountains during the present freshets."

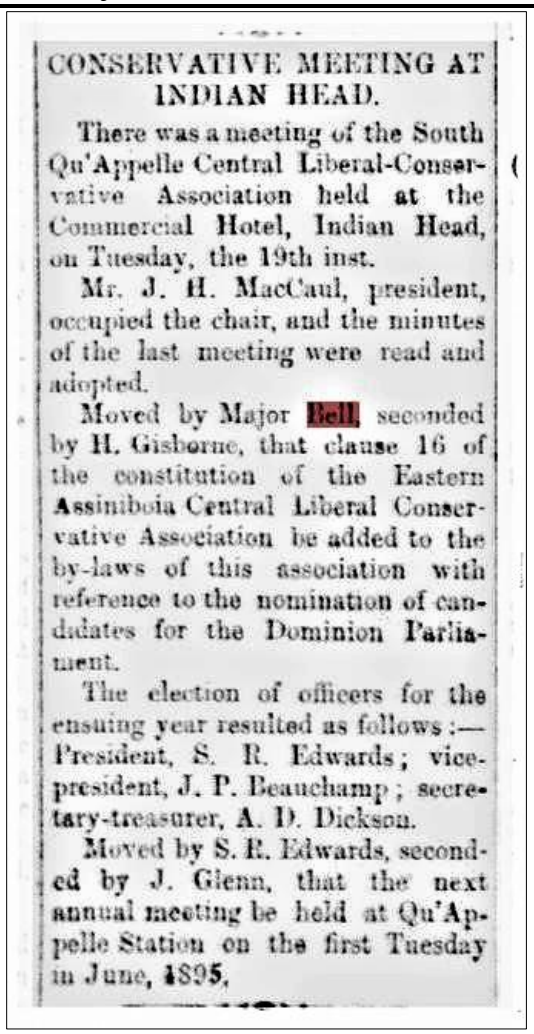
1894 – June 7 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – Major Bell in British Columbia during flooding

"Major Bell went to the coast two or three weeks ago and has not been able to return on account of the floods, and probably will not be at the meeting today."

1894 – June 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* p. __

"General Superintendent Whyte and Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, are reported to be doing the Robinson Crusoe act in some portion of the flooded district of British Columbia. At all events, the Major is not home yet."

1894 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 5 - Bell at Liberal-Conservative Convention



CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT INDIAN HEAD.

There was a meeting of the South Qu'Appelle Central Liberal-Conservative Association held at the Commercial Hotel, Indian Head, on Tuesday, the 19th inst.

Mr. J. H. MacCaul, president, occupied the chair, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Moved by Major Bell, seconded by H. Gisborne, that clause 16 of the constitution of the Eastern Assiniboia Central Liberal Conservative Association be added to the by-laws of this association with reference to the nomination of candidates for the Dominion Parliament.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, S. R. Edwards; vice-president, J. P. Beauchamp; secretary-treasurer, A. D. Dickson.

Moved by S. R. Edwards, seconded by J. Glenn, that the next annual meeting be held at Qu'Appelle Station on the first Tuesday in June, 1895.

106 kb

1894 – June 21 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* p. __

Indian Head. "Major Bell returned from the west last Thursday."

"The rifle season was inaugurated last Saturday with a match open to all comers. Individually some excellent scores were made. Major Bell at 500 yards making 32 out of a possible 35 . . . "

(Frederick Bell is now manager of the Qu'Appelle Progress.)

1894 – July 2 - *Manitoba Morning Free Press* , p. __- At Fort Qu'Appelle May 24 / Mile running won by Major Bell's Ovington – get copy of article – cannot find article

1894 – July 7 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major Bell leaves Winnipeg for Indian Head

"People We Talk About . . . . . Major Bell left for Indian Head this morning."

1894 – July 26 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __

"Major Bell returned from Winnipeg."

1895 or 1894 ???– Aug. 2 - *Daily Nor-Wester* - at the Regina Territorial Fair – get copy of article

1894 – Aug. 2 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

> [Under "Local Happenings", which means Fort Qu'Appelle], "Maj. Bell of Indian Head, was in town yesterday, to secure the service of Sioux Indians for harvest work on the Bell Farm." [*Also, Mr. FL Bell of the Progress Printing Company was married, which means there was another Bell in Indian Head.]* – check for details

1894 – Aug. 16 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell pleased with crop

> "Major Bell, of Indian Head, was in town on Tuesday, and was in high spirits, Providence having blessed him with a good crop."

1894 – Aug. 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* p. __

> "Messrs. J.A.M. Aikins, R.J. Whitla, Superintendent Whyte and Major Bell arrived in town yesterday for a few days shooting. Messrs. Iredale and Ftherstonhaugh (sic) took them up to the box at the head of the lakes."

1894 – Aug. 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* p. __

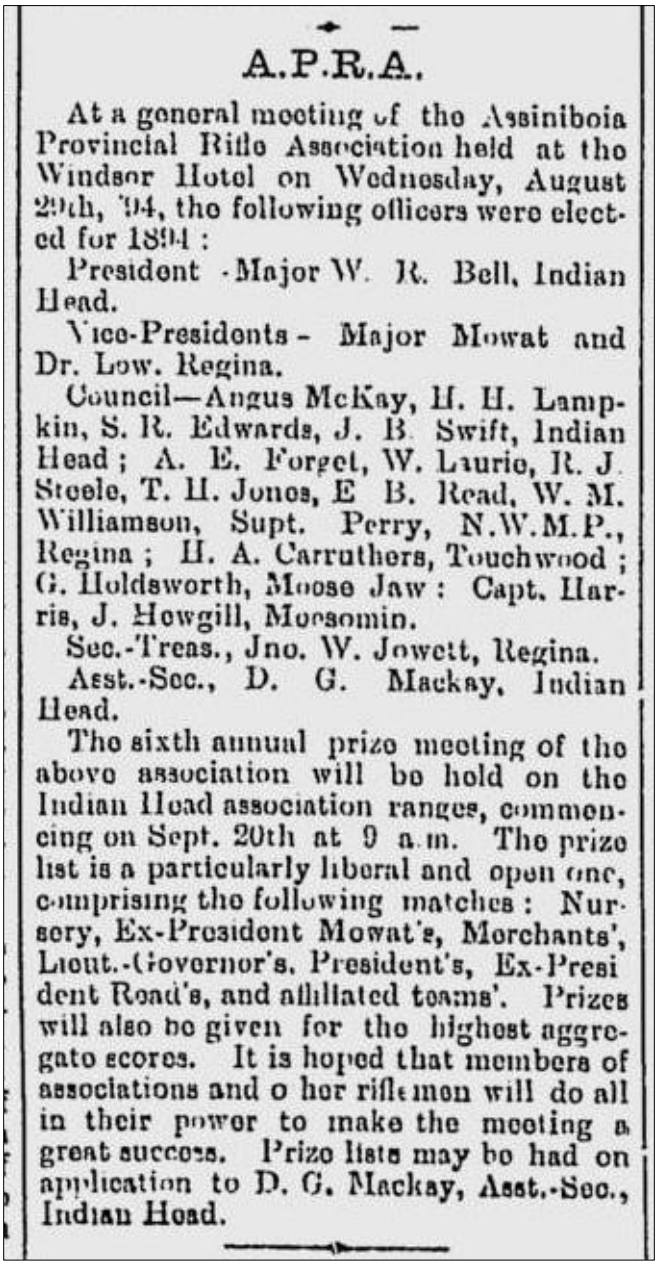
> "Messrs. Whyte, Whitla, Aikins, Bell, Iredale and Fetherstonhaugh returned to town on Friday morning, having bagged 402 ducks, about 299 of which were shipped east, and they claim that had they bagged all that were shot they would have brought home over 800 birds. The Winnipeggers were highly delighted with the country and the shooting." *[From the frequent mention of Iredale and Fetherstonhaugh in the Vidette. These two lived in Fort Qu'Appelle. Possibly this photo below was taken on this occasion? If not, it is representative of the occasion.]*

***145** kb*

1894 – Sept. 6 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. __

"A general meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association was held in Regina Aug. 29th, at which Major Bell was elected president."

1894 – Sept. 13 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 8 – Assiniboia Prov. Rifle Assoc – Windsor Hotel, Regina – Bell president



A.P.R.A.

At a general meeting of the Assiniboia Provincial Rifle Association held at the Windsor Hotel on Wednesday, August 29th, '94, the following officers were elected for 1894 :

President - Major W. R. Bell, Indian Head.

Vice-Presidents - Major Mowat and Dr. Low, Regina.

Council—Angus McKay, H. H. Lampkin, S. R. Edwards, J. B. Swift, Indian Head ; A. E. Forget, W. Laurie, R. J. Steele, T. H. Jones, E. B. Read, W. M. Williamson, Supt. Perry, N.W.M.P., Regina ; H. A. Carruthers, Touchwood ; G. Holdsworth, Moose Jaw : Capt. Harris, J. Howgill, Moosomin.

Sec.-Treas., Jno. W. Jowett, Regina.

Asst.-Sec., D. G. Mackay, Indian Head.

The sixth annual prize meeting of the above association will be held on the Indian Head association ranges, commencing on Sept. 20th at 9 a.m. The prize list is a particularly liberal and open one, comprising the following matches : Nursery, Ex-President Mowat's, Merchants', Lieut.-Governor's, President's, Ex-President Road's, and affiliated teams'. Prizes will also be given for the highest aggregate scores. It is hoped that members of associations and other riflemen will do all in their power to make the meeting a great success. Prize lists may be had on application to D. G. Mackay, Asst.-Sec., Indian Head.

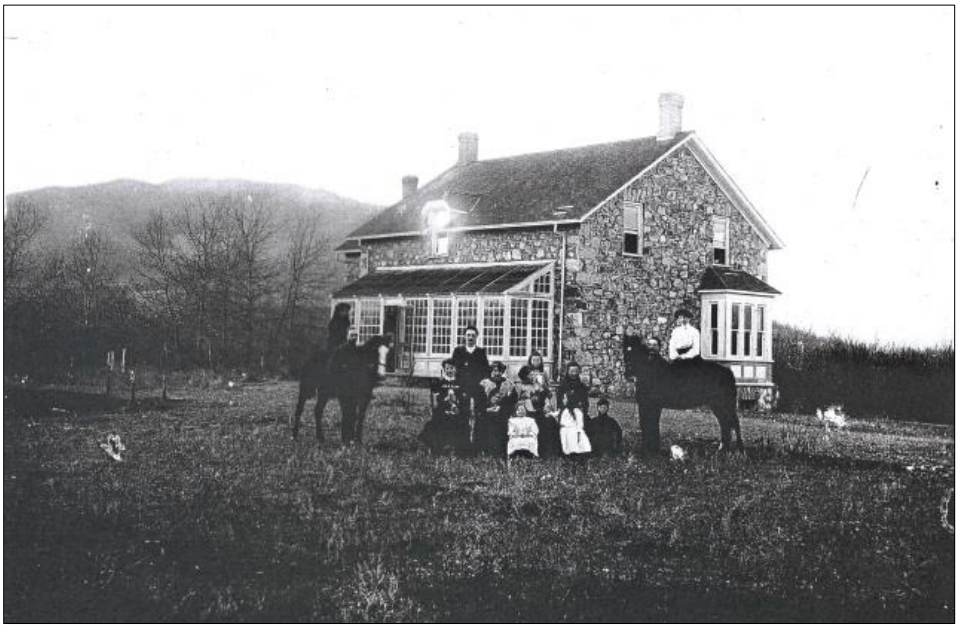
143 kb

1894 – Sept. 12 – *Winnipeg Free Press* – Colmer visited the Bell Farm en route to Winnipeg

After leaving the industrial school, we drove to Indian Head through a very well-settled district. Farm-houses could be seen everywhere, and the stacks of grain which were dotted over the landscape gave an indication of the extent of the crops of the year. Threshing machines were also familiar objects, and here and there could be seen flames arising from immense heaps of straw which were being burnt as the only means of getting rid of them. The farmers, upon the whole, seemed to be very well satisfied with their progress, although they complain of the loss they had sustained by the drought which prevailed, and which lessened the yield to a certain extent. After three or four hours' drive, the immense elevators at Indian Head appeared on the horizon, and we were soon under the hospitable roof of Major Bell, of the well-known Bell Farm. That gentleman had many thousands of acres under cultivation, and there are several large farms in the neighbourhood owned by Lord Brassey and others. There is also a Government Experimental Farm, under the supervision of Mr. McKay. The crops in this district were smaller than those in 1893, which were phenomenal, but the grain was of the best quality, and altogether the farmers appeared to be fairly satisfied with their year's work.

1894 – Sept. 13 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4

"Mrs. Featherstonehaugh's ball poudré *[see note below photograph]* , given at her residence, Fort Qu'Appelle, on Tuesday night, was attended by Mrs. Bell, Mrs. McKay, Mr. W. Crawford and Mr. D.G. McKay, who drove over to the Fort in the afternoon."



136 kb

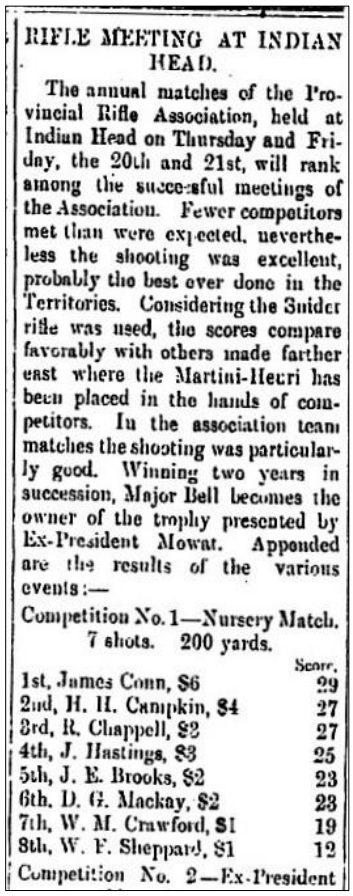
Featherstonehaugh family and stone house, near Fort Qu'Appelle

[Note: 1892 Definition of a **ball poudré**: *"A ball of this description is conducted upon the same basis as an ordinary ball, so far as the programme and the general details are concerned. The guests attire themselves as for a full-dress ball, except that the ladies are required to powder their hair white and wear fancy black patches upon their faces; and the gentlemen to wear white vests and small button-hole bouquets. The effect is very pretty, especially with the present artistic style of dressing which closely copies antique fashions*." Source: **Masquerade and Carnival: Their Customs and Costumes**, Butterick Publishing Company, 1892, p. 15.]

1894 – Sept. 18 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Major Bell attends Grain Standards Board meeting in Winnipeg

> "GRAIN STANDARDS BOARD . . . . . the Grain Standards Board met this morning; there were present: . . . . W.R. Bell, Indian Head . . . . "

1894 – Sept. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* – Major Bell won: $18, trophy, painting and aggregate prize: cup



RIFLE MEETING AT INDIAN HEAD.

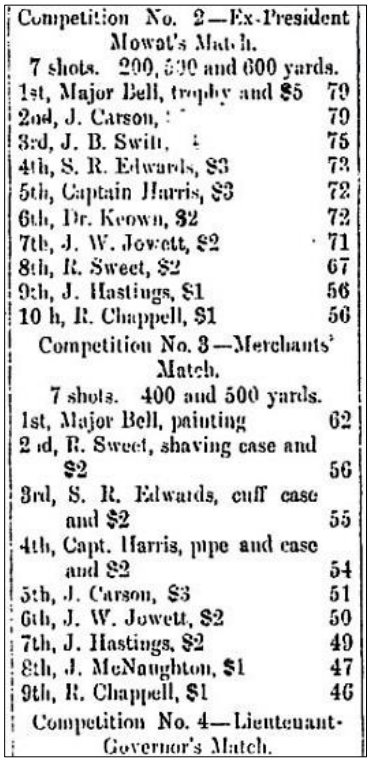
The annual matches of the Provincial Rifle Association, held at Indian Head on Thursday and Friday, the 20th and 21st, will rank among the successful meetings of the Association. Fewer competitors met than were expected, nevertheless the shooting was excellent, probably the best ever done in the Territories. Considering the Snider rifle was used, the scores compare favorably with others made farther east where the Martini-Henri has been placed in the hands of competitors. In the association team matches the shooting was particularly good. Winning two years in succession, Major Bell becomes the owner of the trophy presented by Ex-President Mowat. Appended are the results of the various events:—

Competition No. 1—Nursery Match.
7 shots. 200 yards.

	Score.
1st, James Conn, $6	29
2nd, H. H. Campkin, $4	27
3rd, R. Chappell, $2	27
4th, J. Hastings, $3	25
5th, J. E. Brooks, $2	23
6th, D. G. Mackay, $2	23
7th, W. M. Crawford, $1	19
8th, W. F. Sheppard, $1	12

Competition No. 2—Ex-President

116 kb



Competition No. 2—Ex-President Mowat's Match.
7 shots. 200, 500 and 600 yards.

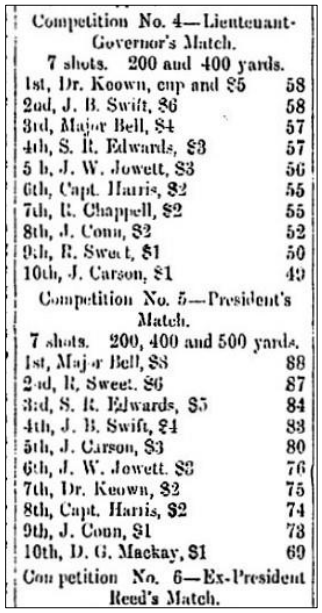
1st, Major Bell, trophy and $5	79
2nd, J. Carson,	79
3rd, J. B. Swift,	75
4th, S. R. Edwards, $3	73
5th, Captain Harris, $3	72
6th, Dr. Keown, $2	72
7th, J. W. Jowett, $2	71
8th, R. Sweet, $2	67
9th, J. Hastings, $1	56
10 h, R. Chappell, $1	56

Competition No. 3—Merchants' Match.
7 shots. 400 and 500 yards.

1st, Major Bell, painting	62
2nd, R. Sweet, shaving case and $2	56
3rd, S. R. Edwards, cuff case and $2	55
4th, Capt. Harris, pipe and case and $2	54
5th, J. Carson, $3	51
6th, J. W. Jowett, $2	50
7th, J. Hastings, $2	49
8th, J. McNaughton, $1	47
9th, R. Chappell, $1	46

Competition No. 4—Lieutenant-Governor's Match.

95 kb



Competition No. 4—Lieutenant-Governor's Match.
7 shots. 200 and 400 yards.

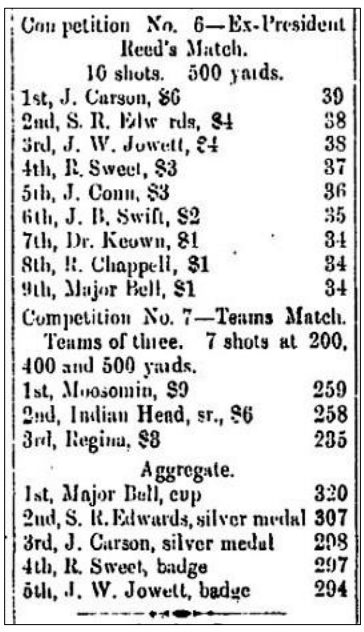
1st, Dr. Keown, cup and $5	58
2nd, J. B. Swift, $6	58
3rd, Major Bell, $4	57
4th, S. R. Edwards, $3	57
5 h, J. W. Jowett, $3	56
6th, Capt. Harris, $2	55
7th, R. Chappell, $2	55
8th, J. Conn, $2	52
9th, R. Sweet, $1	50
10th, J. Carson, $1	49

Competition No. 5—President's Match.
7 shots. 200, 400 and 500 yards.

1st, Major Bell, $8	88
2nd, R. Sweet, $6	87
3rd, S. R. Edwards, $5	84
4th, J. B. Swift, $4	83
5th, J. Carson, $3	80
6th, J. W. Jowett, $2	76
7th, Dr. Keown, $2	75
8th, Capt. Harris, $2	74
9th, J. Conn, $1	73
10th, D. G. Mackay, $1	69

Competition No. 6—Ex-President Reed's Match.

85 kb



Competition No. 6—Ex-President Reed's Match.
10 shots. 500 yards.

1st, J. Carson, $6	39
2nd, S. R. Edwards, $4	38
3rd, J. W. Jowett, $4	38
4th, R. Sweet, $3	37
5th, J. Conn, $3	36
6th, J. B. Swift, $2	35
7th, Dr. Keown, $1	34
8th, R. Chappell, $1	34
9th, Major Bell, $1	34

Competition No. 7—Teams Match.
Teams of three. 7 shots at 200, 400 and 500 yards.

1st, Moosomin, $9	259
2nd, Indian Head, sr., $6	258
3rd, Regina, $3	235

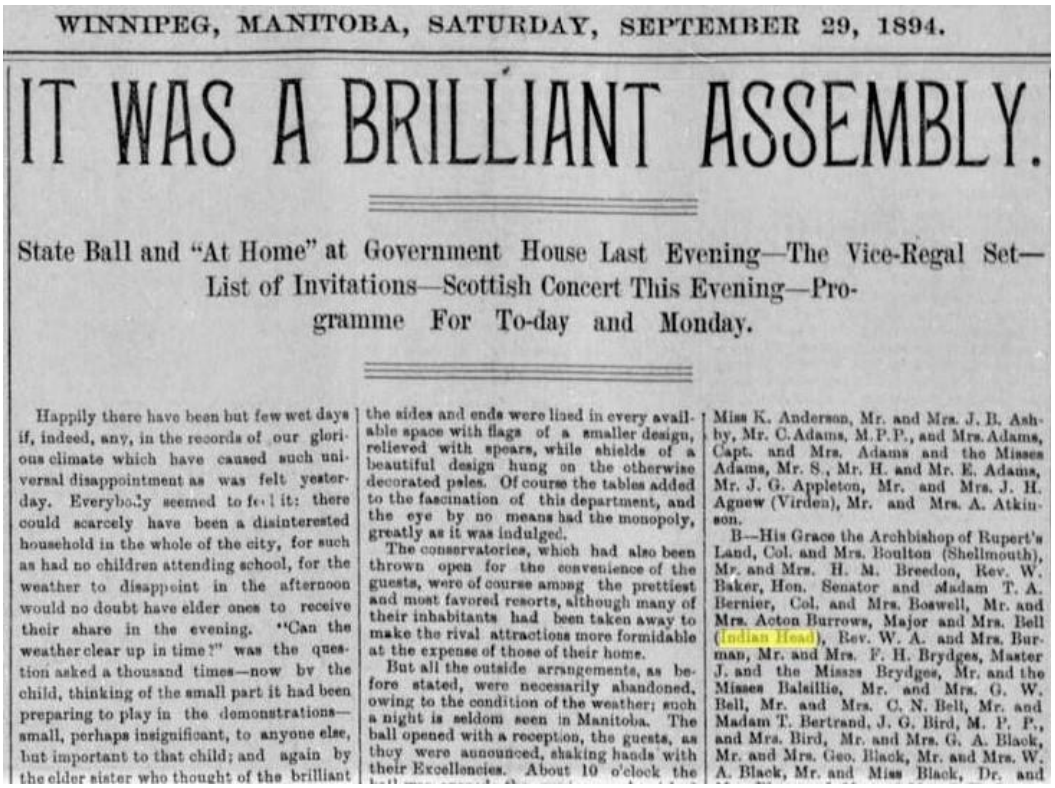
Aggregate.

1st, Major Bell, cup	320
2nd, S. R. Edwards, silver medal	307
3rd, J. Carson, silver medal	298
4th, R. Sweet, badge	297
5th, J. W. Jowett, badge	294

89 kb

Column 2 - "**INDIAN HEAD:** Major Bell, member of the Grain Grading Board, attended a meeting of that body in Winnipeg last week. All grades of wheat, barley and oats were left the same as last year."

1894 – Sept. 29 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 1 – Major & Mrs. Bell attend state ball at Manitoba's Gov. House, Wpg. in pouring rain. About 1,300 to 1,400 guests attended.



WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1894.

IT WAS A BRILLIANT ASSEMBLY.

State Ball and "At Home" at Government House Last Evening—The Vice-Regal Set—List of Invitations—Scottish Concert This Evening—Programme For To-day and Monday.

Happily there have been but few wet days if, indeed, any, in the records of our glorious climate which have caused such universal disappointment as was felt yesterday. Everybody seemed to feel it: there could scarcely have been a disinterested household in the whole of the city, for such as had no children attending school, for the weather to disappoint in the afternoon would no doubt have elder ones to receive their share in the evening. "Can the weather clear up in time?" was the question asked a thousand times—now by the child, thinking of the small part it had been preparing to play in the demonstrations—small, perhaps insignificant, to anyone else, but important to that child; and again by the elder sister who thought of the brilliant

the sides and ends were lined in every available space with flags of a smaller design, relieved with spears, while shields of a beautiful design hung on the otherwise decorated pales. Of course the tables added to the fascination of this department, and the eye by no means had the monopoly, greatly as it was indulged.

The conservatories, which had also been thrown open for the convenience of the guests, were of course among the prettiest and most favored resorts, although many of their inhabitants had been taken away to make the rival attractions more formidable at the expense of those of their home.

But all the outside arrangements, as before stated, were necessarily abandoned, owing to the condition of the weather; such a night is seldom seen in Manitoba. The ball opened with a reception, the guests, as they were announced, shaking hands with their Excellencies. About 10 o'clock the

Miss K. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Ashby, Mr. C. Adams, M.P.P., and Mrs. Adams, Capt. and Mrs. Adams and the Misses Adams, Mr. S., Mr. H. and Mr. E. Adams, Mr. J. G. Appleton, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Agnew (Virden), Mr. and Mrs. A. Atkinson.

B—His Grace the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, Col. and Mrs. Boulton (Shellmouth), Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Breedon, Rev. W. Baker, Hon. Senator and Madam T. A. Bernier, Col. and Mrs. Boswell, Mr. and Mrs. Acton Burrows, Major and Mrs. Bell (Indian Head), Rev. W. A. and Mrs. Burman, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Brydges, Master J. and the Misses Brydges, Mr. and the Misses Balsillie, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Bell, Mr. and Madam T. Bertrand, J. G. Bird, M. P. P., and Mrs. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Black, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Black, Mr. and Miss Black, Dr. and

181 kb

1894 – Oct. 4 – Qu'Appelle Progress, p 4 – check for details

[List of award winners at the Indian Head Agriculture Show. "Blood Horse – Stallion/ W.R. Bell, as well as, listed under "registered Draught Horses," a Brood mare and foal, and several under "Heavy Draught." *(An award was also presented to J Glenn for his stallion and Carriage horses. Bell and Glenn would be contemporaries and, with their military background and station in life, probably friends as well.* Awards for grain also to W.R. Bell. *Now, here is a puzzle that may have wider implications for other entries on Bell,* several "Special prizes" were presented by both Maj. Bell and W.R .Bell. A.J. Osment also presented prizes – in various categories of women's work.]

1894 – Oct. 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __ – check for details

[Indian Head fair poorly attended but this is possibly due to] "prevailing hard times." – " Two year old colt or filly sired by 'Better Luck' prizes by Major Bell, 1st" (p. 4) [Many references to Major Bell.]

INDIAN HEAD FAIR.

The eleventh annual exhibition of the Indian Head Agricultural Society took place on Wednesday, the 26th ult., at Indian Head. The weather was all that could be desired. The attendance should have been larger, but no doubt it was in some manner affected by the prevailing hard times. The display in the Town Hall was especially good, augmented as it was by the Experimental Farm and Indian exhibits. We noticed some

43 kb

HORSES.

Blood Horses—Stallion, 1 W R Bell.

Heavy Draught (registered)—Stallion, 1 C Thompson, 2 W Sides. Brood mare, 1 A Dundas, 2 W R Bell. Foal, 1 W R Bell.

Heavy Draught—Mare with foal at side, 1 S Mitchell, 2 J Obleman. Filly or gelding three years old, 1 J Glenn, 2 W R Bell. Filly or gelding two years old, 1 W R Bell, 2 S Mitchell. Filly or gelding one year old, 1 S Mitchell, 2 W R Bell. Foal of 1894, 1 A M McLane, 2 J Obleman.

General Purpose—Brood mare with foal at side, 1 A Todd, 2 S T Gibson. Filly or gelding three years old, 1 A Dundas. Filly or gelding two years old, 1 H Dickson, 2 W Dickson. Filly or gelding one year old, 1 A Todd, 2 W R Bell. Foal of 1894, 1 A Todd, 2 C Thompson. Team, 1 J Booth, 2 A Dundas.

51 kb

CATTLE.

Durham (registered)—Bull over one year, 1 T Skinner. Cow, 1 and 2 T Skinner.

Polled Angus (registered)—Bull any age, 1 T Skinner. Cow, 1 and 2 T Skinner. Heifer calf of 1894, 1 T Skinner.

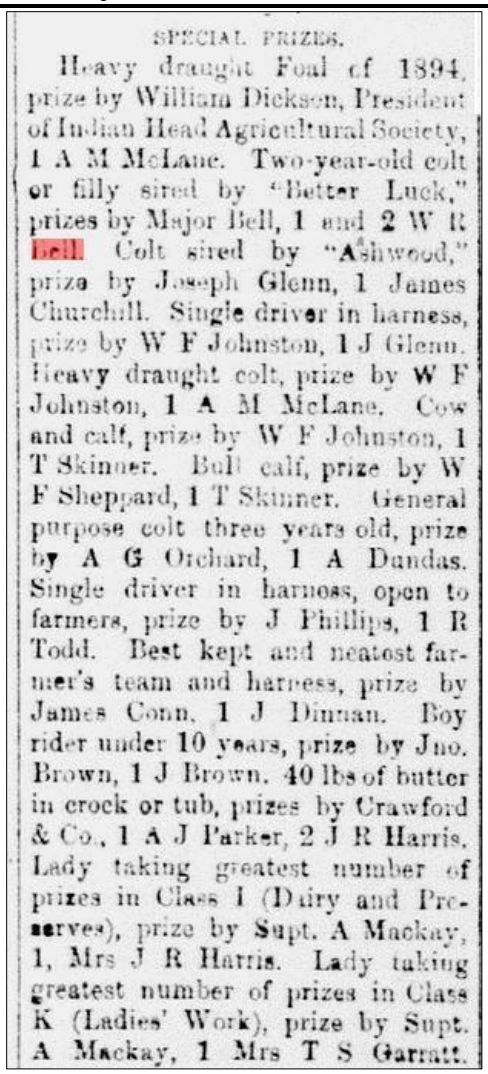
Grade Cattle—Milch cow, 1 T Skinner. Heifer two years old, 1 W R Bell, 2 T Skinner. Calf of 1894, 1 W H Lee, 2 T Skinner.

22 kb

GRAIN.

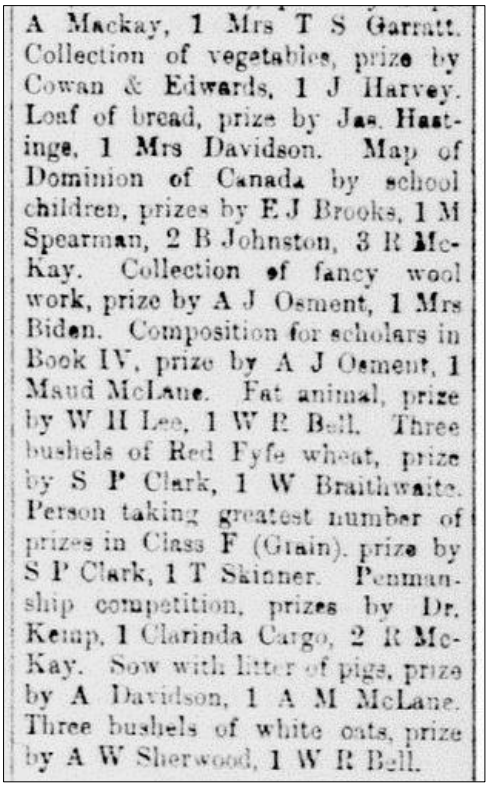
Two bushels Red Fyfe wheat, 1 C H Bonisteel, 2 T Skinner, 3 W R Bell. Two bushels wheat any other variety, 1 W Braithwaite, 2 J B Holden. Two bushels two-row barley, 1 W R Bell. Two bushels six-row barley, 1 T Skinner. Two bushels white oats, 1 T Skinner, 2 W R Bell. Two bushels small peas, 1 J Harvey. Half bushel of flax, 1 T Skinner, 2 W Braithwaite.

26 kb



SPECIAL PRIZES.

Heavy draught Foal of 1894, prize by William Dickson, President of Indian Head Agricultural Society, 1 A M McLane. Two-year-old colt or filly sired by "Better Luck," prizes by Major Bell, 1 and 2 W R Bell. Colt sired by "Ashwood," prize by Joseph Glenn, 1 James Churchill. Single driver in harness, prize by W F Johnston, 1 J Glenn. Heavy draught colt, prize by W F Johnston, 1 A M McLane. Cow and calf, prize by W F Johnston, 1 T Skinner. Bull calf, prize by W F Sheppard, 1 T Skinner. General purpose colt three years old, prize by A G Orchard, 1 A Dundas. Single driver in harness, open to farmers, prize by J Phillips, 1 R Todd. Best kept and neatest farmer's team and harness, prize by James Conn, 1 J Dinnan. Boy rider under 10 years, prize by Jno. Brown, 1 J Brown. 40 lbs of butter in crock or tub, prizes by Crawford & Co., 1 A J Parker, 2 J R Harris. Lady taking greatest number of prizes in Class I (Dairy and Preserves), prize by Supt. A Mackay, 1, Mrs J R Harris. Lady taking greatest number of prizes in Class K (Ladies' Work), prize by Supt. A Mackay, 1 Mrs T S Garratt.



A Mackay, 1 Mrs T S Garratt. Collection of vegetables, prize by Cowan & Edwards, 1 J Harvey. Loaf of bread, prize by Jas. Hastinge, 1 Mrs Davidson. Map of Dominion of Canada by school children, prizes by E J Brooks, 1 M Spearman, 2 B Johnston, 3 R McKay. Collection of fancy wool work, prize by A J Osment, 1 Mrs Biden. Composition for scholars in Book IV, prize by A J Osment, 1 Maud McLane. Fat animal, prize by W H Lee, 1 W R Bell. Three bushels of Red Fyfe wheat, prize by S P Clark, 1 W Braithwaite. Person taking greatest number of prizes in Class F (Grain), prize by S P Clark, 1 T Skinner. Penmanship competition, prizes by Dr. Kemp, 1 Clarinda Cargo, 2 R McKay. Sow with litter of pigs, prize by A Davidson, 1 A M McLane. Three bushels of white oats, prize by A W Sherwood, 1 W R Bell.

74 kb 61 kb

1894 – Oct. 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __

> Indian Head. "Clem Peltier (maybe should be spelled "Pelltier") finished burning the last kiln at the brick yard last Friday, and will have 300,000 bricks wherewith to commence next season's business. The industry, while not productive of marked profit this season, proved sufficiently encouraging to warrant extended operations next year."

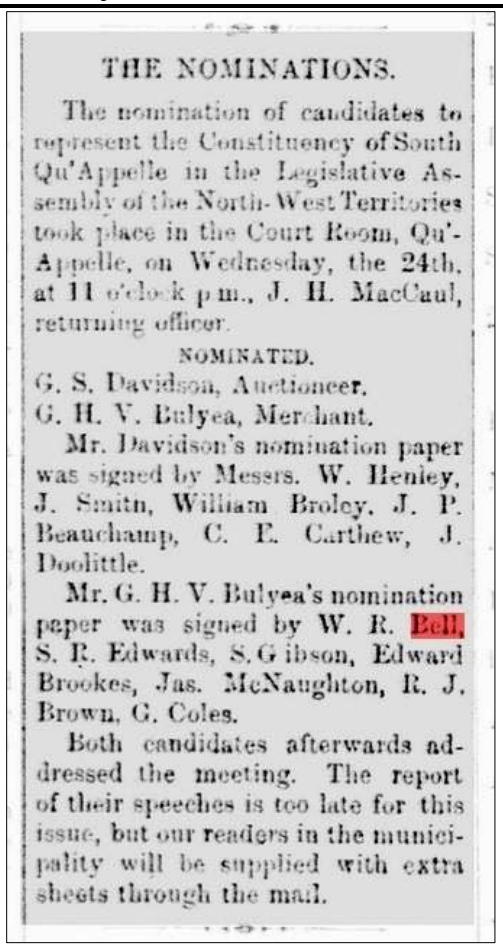
1894 – Oct. 18 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 - Major Bell in Qu'Appelle

> "**THE WEEK'S NEWS – At Home and Abroad -** Major Bell of Indian Head was in town Monday"
>
> "Hotel Arrivals: Leland: Major Bell, Indian Head."

1894 – Oct. 19. *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major Bell arrives in Winnipeg from Indian Head.

> "PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT . . . . . Major Bell, of Indian Head, arrived by the west train this morning."

1894 –Oct. 24 –*Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – Political Nomination: Bulyea supported by Bell



THE NOMINATIONS.

The nomination of candidates to represent the Constituency of South Qu'Appelle in the Legislative Assembly of the North-West Territories took place in the Court Room, Qu'Appelle, on Wednesday, the 24th, at 11 o'clock p m., J. H. MacCaul, returning officer.

NOMINATED.

G. S. Davidson, Auctioneer.
G. H. V. Bulyea, Merchant.

Mr. Davidson's nomination paper was signed by Messrs. W. Henley, J. Smith, William Broley, J. P. Beauchamp, C. P. Carthew, J. Doolittle.

Mr. G. H. V. Bulyea's nomination paper was signed by W. R. Bell, S. R. Edwards, S. Gibson, Edward Brookes, Jas. McNaughton, R. J. Brown, G. Coles.

Both candidates afterwards addressed the meeting. The report of their speeches is too late for this issue, but our readers in the municipality will be supplied with extra sheets through the mail.

57 kb

1894 – Nov. 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 4 – Major Bell in Qu'Appelle

"**HOTEL ARRIVALS – LELAND –** W.R. Bell, Indian Head"

1894 – Nov. 1 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __ – check for details

"Mr. Davidson's Meeting at Indian Head" [Discussing the election of a member for the Legislative Assembly representative for South Qu'Appelle, Davidson reviewed his six years as the elected representative, and also his opponent Mr. Bulyea. Then:]

"Major Bell championed the cause of Mr. Bulyea in that gentleman's absence. He pointed out where he considered Mr. Davidson should have taken a different course, and suggested that the penalty suffered by the Chinese political offender be visited upon him. The speaker said what was needed in a representative was honesty, sincerity and integrity, and Mr. Davidson took advantage of the mention of these virtues to turn the laugh against the Major."

1894 – Nov. 15 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

"Major Bell returned from Winnipeg Tuesday morning."

1894 – Nov. 22 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell secretary to Winnipeg Grain Exchange

"As a result of representations of Secretary Bell, of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, to the government last week there will be no change in the grain standards this year, and before next year's crop is harvested the whole question will have been thoroughly investigated."

1894 – Nov. 29 – *Winnipeg Tribune* , p. 8 – Major and Mrs. Bell arrive to winter in Winnipeg

"PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, will arrive in the city this evening and take up their residence for the winter at the Manitoba hotel."

1892

Fire – 1899

1894 – Dec. 1 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 3 – Major and Mrs. Bell in Winnipeg for the winter.

"A PEEP INTO SCIETY CIRCLES . . . . . Major Bell and Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, will spend the winter in Winnipeg, and have taken a suite of rooms at the Manitoba."

1894 – Dec. 6 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major and Mrs. Bell Williams farewell tea (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

"**Farewell Tea** . . . . . A farewell tea was given yesterday by the officers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons at the officers mess in the honour of Captain and Mrs. Williams, who are taking up their residence in Toronto. The guests were received by Mrs. Heward in the ante-room, and the band, stationed in the billiard room, rendered a selection of airs under the direction of Sergt. Judges. Among those present were: . . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell . . . . . ."

1894 – Dec. 7 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Manitoba's Government House

"GOVERNMENT HOUS , The following ladies and gentlemen called at Government House yesterday. . . . Major and Mrs. Bell, Indian Head . . . . . ."

1894 – Dec. 8 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major & Mrs. Bell at Alloway Residence social

"A Peep into Social Circles - . . . . . The following were among those invited [to the Alloway Residence]. . . Major and Mrs. Bell (Indian Head). . . . ."

1894 – Dec. 12 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 8 – Major Bell attends a public meeting in Winnipeg

"**WINNIPEG**: . . .pubic meeting at the Bijou Opera House last night . . . . **The Introduction**. Mr. Colin H. Campbell occupied the chair. . . .H.M. Miller, D.A. Ritchie, S. Walker, J.S. Sproule, L. Worthham, J.J. Golden, A. McMicken, Major Bell and others."

1894 – Dec. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 2 – Philip Leech advertises mare that strayed from Bell Farm"

> "**LOST.** STRAYED FROM THE BELL FARM about six weeks ago, one Light Bay Mare branded WR on side of head. 15¾ hands high, white hind legs, blaze on face, weight about 1,260 lbs. Finder please communicated with PHILIP LEECH, Bell Farm, Indian Head."

1894 – Dec. 27 – Qu'Appelle Progress , p. __

> "A dull Christmas is an excellent indication of the stringency of the times, and Christmas in Qu'Appelle has been one of the dullest in our recollection." [On the same front page, a tirade about the Relief Fund.]

1894 – 29 Dec. 29 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Aikins dinner party, Winnipeg

> "A PEEP INTO SOCIETY CIRCLES – How Christmas Was Spent – Small Dinner Parties - . . . . . Mrs. Somerset Aikins was the hostess of a small dinner party at the Manitoba on Saturday evening. The guests were: Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Hamilton and Miss Bodington, Major and Mrs. Bell (Indian Head), Mr. and Mrs. Angus Kirkland, Miss Jean Forsythe, Mr. J.A.M. Aikins, Mr. Molyueux St. John."

1895

1895 – Jan. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __ – check for details

> [front page item on "a great deal of distress abroad," "Hard Times at Lorlie, and poor farmers with little to eat.

1895 – Jan. 9 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 1 – Major Bell in Winnipeg

> "Major Bell arrived last night from Indian Head."

1895 – Jan. 10 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

> "Major Bell was in town Friday."

1895 – Jan. 17 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 7 – Major Bell and other were in Moosomin (or Winnipeg?) last week

> "**MOOSOMIN.** . . . . . Major Bell, of Indian Head, V. Flook, Wapella, ... were visitors to the gateway town last week." (Jan. 14th report)

1895 – Jan. 19 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major and Mrs. Bell at the Whyte's social event

"A PEEP INTO SOCIETY CIRCLES . . . . . The largest social event of the week was the ball given by Mrs. Wm. Whyte . . . . About an hour was allowed for supper . . . . Among other pretty gowns noticed were: . . . .. Mrs. Bell (Indian Head) old rose silk with cream lace; . . . . . ."

1895 – Feb. 14 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 8 - Major Bell returns from Ottawa

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, was among the passengers returning yesterday from a trip to Ottawa. . . . . " – check for details

1895 – Feb. 14 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press,* p. 5 - Major Bell returns from Ottawa

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, was among the passengers returning yesterday from a trip to Ottawa."

1895 – Feb 21 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. ___ – check for details

1895 – March 7 - *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. 1 - Major Bell back in Indian Head

"Major Bell arrived on Thursday, and has remained in the vicinity for the past few days."

1895 – March 7 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1

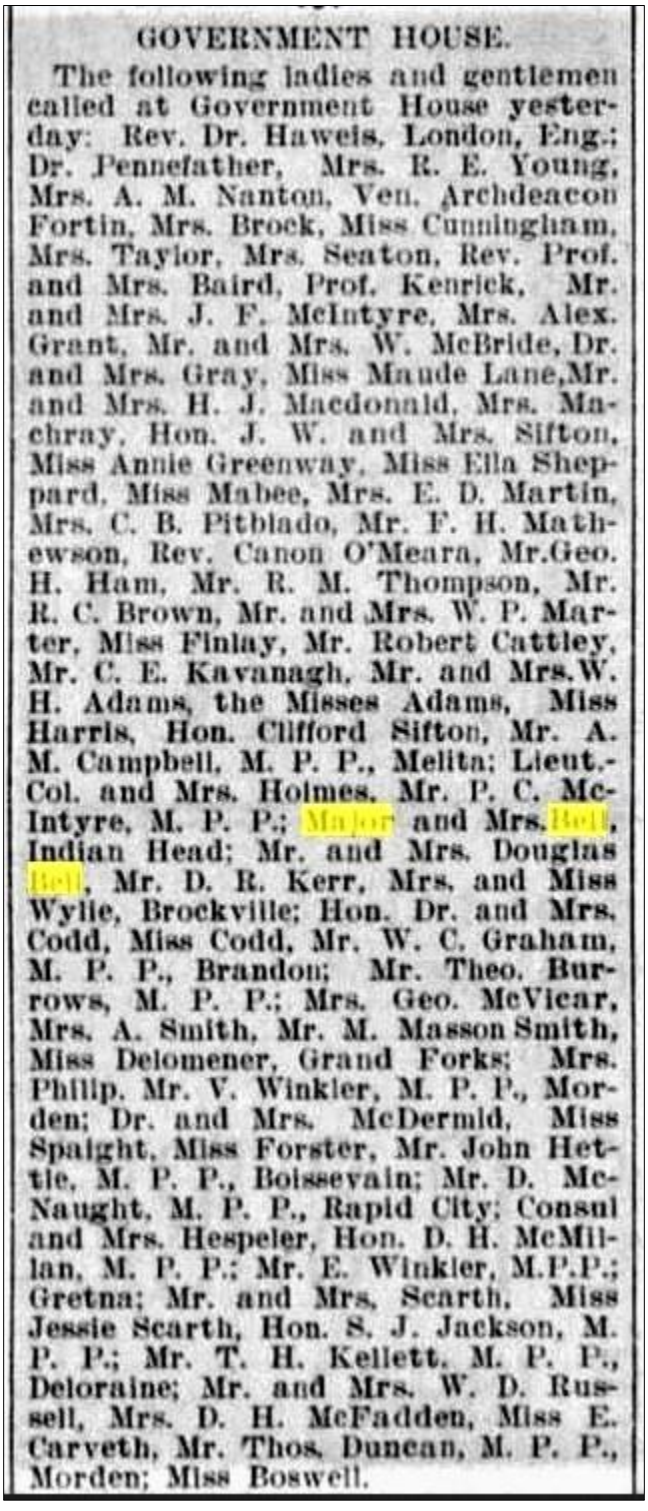
"Indian Head. - On Monday A.J. Osment left for Katepwa to superintend the erection of a new boat house. In his leisure hour this winter he has constructed a steam pinnace, which is to be drawn to the lake and launched in the spring."

"Major Bell, who seeks the nomination for the Dominion House in the Conservative interest, has been interviewing the local electors." (Frank – this may explain why he did not leave Indian Head for the winter.)

1895 – March 8 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major Bell arrives in Winnipeg from Indian Head

"PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT. – Movement of Winnipeggers and Travellers Here and Everywhere. Major Bell arrived from the west yesterday morning."

1895 – March 8 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 3 – Major and Mrs. Bell attend Manitoba Government House function, in Winnipeg

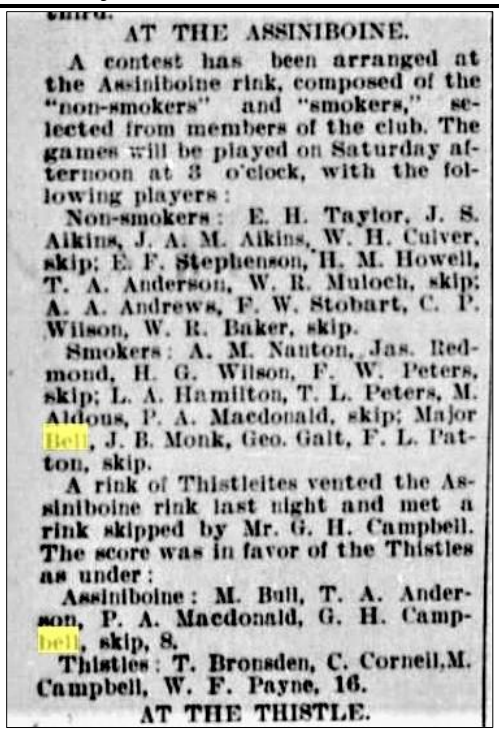


GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The following ladies and gentlemen called at Government House yesterday: Rev. Dr. Haweis, London, Eng.; Dr. Pennefather, Mrs. R. E. Young, Mrs. A. M. Nanton, Ven. Archdeacon Fortin, Mrs. Brock, Miss Cunningham, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Seaton, Rev. Prof. and Mrs. Baird, Prof. Kenrick, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. McIntyre, Mrs. Alex. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. W. McBride, Dr. and Mrs. Gray, Miss Maude Lane, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Macdonald, Mrs. Machray, Hon. J. W. and Mrs. Sifton, Miss Annie Greenway, Miss Ella Sheppard, Miss Mabee, Mrs. E. D. Martin, Mrs. C. B. Pitblado, Mr. F. H. Mathewson, Rev. Canon O'Meara, Mr. Geo. H. Ham, Mr. R. M. Thompson, Mr. R. C. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Marter, Miss Finlay, Mr. Robert Cattley, Mr. C. E. Kavanagh, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Adams, the Misses Adams, Miss Harris, Hon. Clifford Sifton, Mr. A. M. Campbell, M. P. P., Melita; Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. P. C. McIntyre, M. P. P.; Major and Mrs. Bell, Indian Head; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bell, Mr. D. R. Kerr, Mrs. and Miss Wylie, Brockville; Hon. Dr. and Mrs. Codd, Miss Codd, Mr. W. C. Graham, M. P. P., Brandon; Mr. Theo. Burrows, M. P. P.; Mrs. Geo. McVicar, Mrs. A. Smith, Mr. M. Masson Smith, Miss Delomener, Grand Forks; Mrs. Philip, Mr. V. Winkler, M. P. P., Morden; Dr. and Mrs. McDermid, Miss Spaight, Miss Forster, Mr. John Hettie, M. P. P., Boissevain; Mr. D. McNaught, M. P. P., Rapid City; Consul and Mrs. Hespeler, Hon. D. H. McMillan, M. P. P.; Mr. E. Winkler, M.P.P.; Gretna; Mr. and Mrs. Scarth, Miss Jessie Scarth, Hon. S. J. Jackson, M. P. P.; Mr. T. H. Kellett, M. P. P., Deloraine; Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Russell, Mrs. D. H. McFadden, Miss E. Carveth, Mr. Thos. Duncan, M. P. P., Morden; Miss Boswell.

282 kb

1895 – March 14 – *Winnipeg* Tribune, p. 4 - Major Bell is among the "Smokers" curling team (Frank: which Major Bell?)



AT THE ASSINIBOINE.

A contest has been arranged at the Assiniboine rink, composed of the "non-smokers" and "smokers," selected from members of the club. The games will be played on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, with the following players:

Non-smokers: E. H. Taylor, J. S. Aikins, J. A. M. Aikins, W. H. Culver, skip; E. F. Stephenson, H. M. Howell, T. A. Anderson, W. R. Muloch, skip; A. A. Andrews, F. W. Stobart, C. P. Wilson, W. R. Baker, skip.

Smokers: A. M. Nanton, Jas. Redmond, H. G. Wilson, F. W. Peters, skip; L. A. Hamilton, T. L. Peters, M. Aldous, P. A. Macdonald, skip; Major Bell, J. B. Monk, Geo. Galt, F. L. Patton, skip.

A rink of Thistleites vented the Assiniboine rink last night and met a rink skipped by Mr. G. H. Campbell. The score was in favor of the Thistles as under:

Assiniboine: M. Bull, T. A. Anderson, P. A. Macdonald, G. H. Campbell, skip, 8.

Thistles: T. Bronsden, C. Cornell, M. Campbell, W. F. Payne, 16.

AT THE THISTLE.

116 kb

1895 – March 16 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 1 – Bell unsuccessful in securing the nomination

> "EAST ASSINIBOIA : Qu'Appelle, March 13 . . . . for the honour of representing East Assiniboia in the Dominion Parliament, Mr. G.S. Davidson, ex—M.L.A., was declared on top by a large majority over Major Bell, of Indian Head. The following were the elected delegates . . . ."

1895 – March 19 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 4 – Major Bell in Whitewood for Conservative convention

> "POLITICAL POINTS - . . . . . Major Bell left for Whitewood last evening to attend the Conservative convention there this evening."

1895 – March 21 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. ___– check for details

1895 – March 22 – *Winnipeg Tribune, p. 3* – Major Bell arrived in Winnipeg from west

> "Major Bell, of Indian Head, came in by the west train to-day."

1895 – March 22 – *Moose Jaw Herald Times* , p. 1– Supt. MacKay & Senator Perley (from Wolseley) talk to farmers

> "**AGRICULTURAL LORE -** . . . . Continuing the Senator said: . . . .When I left for the North-West I was told that I was foolish. When I landed here I was disappointed. I saw fat cattle but there was a frost next morning after my arrival that froze everything solid. When Major Bell came down on a campaign in '83 he said that Wolseley was one of the finest farming districts in the territory. He advised the farmers to keep one cow; stake her in a hay slough and feed her on straw in the winter; that you could sit on a gang plow and have a gentleman's life farming. I said then I had no vote, but from appearances if the Major didn't know any more about politics than he knows about farming better leave him home. I was convinced that mixed farming was the only profitable way of getting along, and I advised those who had a span of horses to convert them into cows. . . . . ."

1895 – March 25 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 6 – Bell returns from unsuccessful East Assiniboia nomination

> "Major Bell has returned from the Assiniboia convention. He made a gallant run for the conservative nomination, and takes his defeat with characteristic good nature."

1895 – April 4 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – check for details

1895 – April 4 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1

> "Indian Head. Major Bell returned from Winnipeg on Monday, Mrs. Bell will follow during the week."

1895 – April 6 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Bell Farm debt to Commercial Bank of Manitoba apparently written off

> "COMMERCIAL BANK AFFAIRS - . . . . Under the heading "General Banking," the liquidators state that the "peculiar transaction" (the quotations are in the report) which characterized the business of the bank prior to its failure, have, in examinations before Mr. Justice Bain, been shown to be more numerous and serious than was anticipated when the previous report was made. Lengthy reference is made to the "peculiar transactions" and a portion of the examinations of one of the witnesses before the court is published. The report says that the Bell Farm company appear indebted to the bank to the extent of about $10,000 and adds that the claim is absolutely bad." (Frank: I presume that this means the Bell Farm cannot pay that debt.)

1895 – April 11 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

> Indian Head. "Major Bell left for Winnipeg on Tuesday."

1895 – April 20 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Supt. Whyte reports on spring planting at the Bell Farm

> "MR. WHYTE'S RETURN. . . . . Speaking of the Bell Farm at Indian Head, Mr. Whyte said that there were this year 2,100 acres under crop on this farm, 1,500 being wheat, and the balance coarser grains."

1895 – April 25 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __ – check for details

1895 – April 25 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. __

> Indian Head. "Major and Mrs. Bell's guests, Supt Whyte, CPR, and Messrs Aikens, Whitln and Carver, returned to Winnipeg on Friday, Supt. Whyte's private car being attached to the Atlantic express."

1895 – May 9 – *Qu'Appelle Progress,* p. __

> Local. "Major Bell and SR Edwards, Indian Head, were in town on Monday."

1895 – May 14 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 – Bell Farm crop report

"THE REPORTORIAL ROUND . . . . . Things are looking very well on the Bell farm, Indian Head. There are 2,250 acres under crop, as follows: Wheat, 1,600; oats, 400; barley, 200; flax, 50. All the crops are looking well."

1895 – May 16 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

Indian Head. "At the Court of Revision held Saturday Major Bell appeared and asked that the block known as Market Square be assessed in his name, offering for the sum of $350 to transfer two lots upon which the Town Hall stands, to the municipality, when the applicant was in a position to give a clear title."

"The rifle association held a meeting on Tuesday evening. Major Bell presided."

1895 – May 18 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 - T.T.W. Bready's crop report

"THE GROWING CROP . . . . . This country should produce this year thirty million bushels of wheat or more, there is no reason why it will not. Speaking of particular farms, Mr. Bready says that there is no farm in the country that is quite as well or efficiently handled as the Bell farm, and the prospects there are simply magnificent."

1895 – May 20 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 8 – Bell returns to Winnipeg from Indian Head, reports on frost

"**THE CROP PROSPECTS.** Major Bell returned from Indian Head this morning, where he has been superintending the putting in of the season's crop. The frosts have done no damage anywhere, though they have been more severe in the west than near the city. On Friday, May 10, there was fourteen degrees of frost at Indian Head, but wheat, barley and oats, though blackened in some spots, were not damaged. There might have been some damage to flax, but of that he had not seen any fields. From long experience in Manitoba, Major Bell thinks it impossible that spring frosts can hurt grain crops, and least of all wheat. The most successful crop he ever had was in 1888, when on May 27 the whole thing was frozen black with a frost that made the thermometer go down to zero. Major Bell has travelled a good deal in the past week or so, and what he saw leads him to believe that unless something most unexpected happens this crop will be the largest in the history of the province."

1895 – May 23 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

"Major Bell left for Ottawa on Sunday evening."

1895 – May 29 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1 – Major Bell visits Ottawa

"GOING UPWARD AND ONWARD - PERSONAL – Ottawa: Major Bell, of the Bell farm, is here."

1895 – June 13 – *Qu'Appelle Progress ,* p. __

"Katepwe Notes. Mr. Osment has brought out his steam launch to the lake. This is the first steamboat on Lake Katepwe as far as is known, but when Katepwe becomes a railway terminus, the number will no doubt increase. This event is much to be desired as Katepwe has already extensive fisheries, a brickyard, two amateur stone masons and

several expert checker players, not to mention such ordinary industries as farming and stock raising. What it would be after the advent of a railway can easily be conjectured."

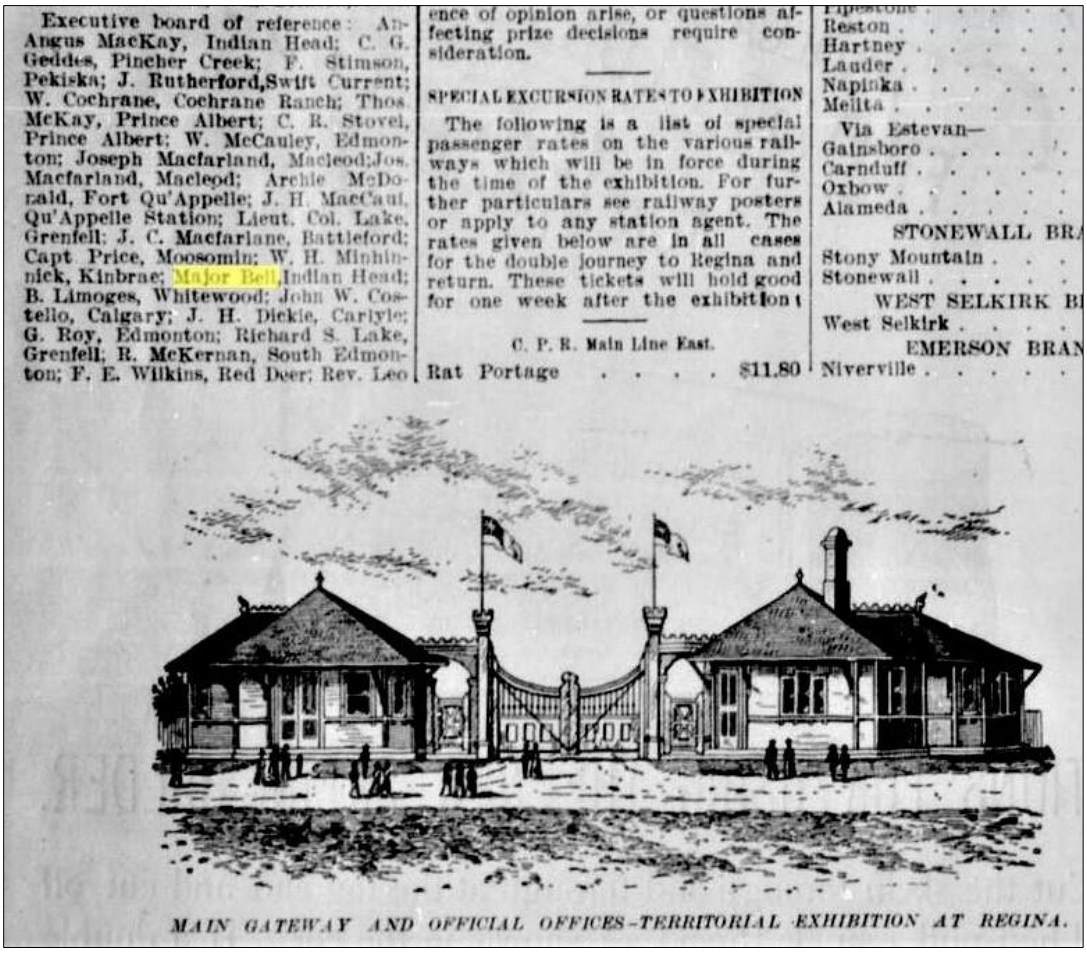
"Mr. Pelletier has been making brick for the past few weeks, but not so extensively as he intends later on."

"Local and General" "Major WR Bell, Indian Head, registered at the Manitoba, Winnipeg, Saturday last."

1895 – July 4 - *Qu'Appelle Progress:* p. 1 – Major Bell advertises for horses that strayed onto the Bell Farm

"**ASTRAY.** STRAYED ON TO THE PREMISES OF the undersigned, one sorrel horse, branded **A** on rear shoulder; two white hind feet and near front foot white; one bay horse, near front foot white, white star on forehead, strip on nose; one black mare; one black mare colt, branded **H** on near shoulder, white hind feet and white star on face; one bay mare colt, branded **H** on near shoulder; one bay horse. The owner can have above by proving property and paying expenses. W.R. Bell, Indian Head 58"

1895 – July 6 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 10 – Major Bell on Executive Board of reference at the Territorial Exhibition



Executive board of reference: Angus MacKay, Indian Head; C. G. Geddes, Pincher Creek; F. Stimson, Pekiska; J. Rutherford, Swift Current; W. Cochrane, Cochrane Ranch; Thos. McKay, Prince Albert; C. R. Stovel, Prince Albert; W. McCauley, Edmonton; Joseph Macfarland, Macleod; Jos. Macfarland, Macleod; Archie McDonald, Fort Qu'Appelle; J. H. MacCaul, Qu'Appelle Station; Lieut. Col. Lake, Grenfell; J. C. Macfarlane, Battleford; Capt Price, Moosomin; W. H. Minhinnick, Kinbrae; Major Bell, Indian Head; B. Limoges, Whitewood; John W. Costello, Calgary; J. H. Dickie, Carlyle; G. Roy, Edmonton; Richard S. Lake, Grenfell; R. McKernan, South Edmonton; F. E. Wilkins, Red Deer; Rev. Leo

ence of opinion arise, or questions affecting prize decisions require consideration.

SPECIAL EXCURSION RATES TO EXHIBITION

The following is a list of special passenger rates on the various railways which will be in force during the time of the exhibition. For further particulars see railway posters or apply to any station agent. The rates given below are in all cases for the double journey to Regina and return. These tickets will hold good for one week after the exhibition

C. P. R. Main Line East.

Rat Portage	$11.80
Reston	
Hartney	
Lauder	
Napinka	
Melita	
Via Estevan—	
Gainsboro	
Carnduff	
Oxbow	
Alameda	
STONEWALL BR	
Stony Mountain	
Stonewall	
WEST SELKIRK B	
West Selkirk	
EMERSON BRAN	
Niverville	

MAIN GATEWAY AND OFFICIAL OFFICES—TERRITORIAL EXHIBITION AT REGINA.

1895 – July 13 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 – Major Bell returned to Winnipeg from Indian Head

"Major Bell returned from the west yesterday. He states that the crops never looked better in all his experience of the country. There has been plenty of rain, and what is now wanted is hot, dry weather. The growth has been very rank, and wheat harvesting will scarcely be general before August 25."

1895 – July 29 – *Man. Morning Free Press* , p. 3 – Major Bell's exhibit for the NWT Fair arrives in Regina

"One of the first exhibits to arrive was that from the Experimental Farm, Indian Head, at which Mr. Angus McKay, the director, his sons, R.J. and D.L. McKay, and Mr. Geo. Lang, have been working for some time. It is really a splendid exhibit. Perhaps the largest individual exhibitor is Major Bell, of the Bell farm, his chief exhibits being wheat and horses. Bets are being freely made that the gallant major will secure the gold medals for cereals, especially offered by the Lieutenant-Governor. The Binscarth herd too, it is said, will hold its own, while Ontario is not going to take a back seat."

1895 – July 29 – Aug 7, North-West Territorial Exhibition – Major Bell's participation and prizes won

Source: NWT Exhibition of 1895 - Scrap Book – Prov. Archives of Sask: R-186 – 54 (Note: Most specific newspaper references are not included in the scrap book.)

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE. July 1, 1895

The West of 1895

CANADA'S SPLENDID HERITAGE IN THE NORTHWEST.

THE FIRST TERRITORIAL EXHIBITION

(Under the supervision of His Honor Lieut.-Governor Mackintosh)

TO BE OPENED AT REGINA By His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Aberdeen.

Commencing July 29th and closing Aug. 7th, 1895

$19,000 IN Prizes AND Attractions!

Come from the East and see for Yourselves. Come from the West and support the 1st Exhibition.

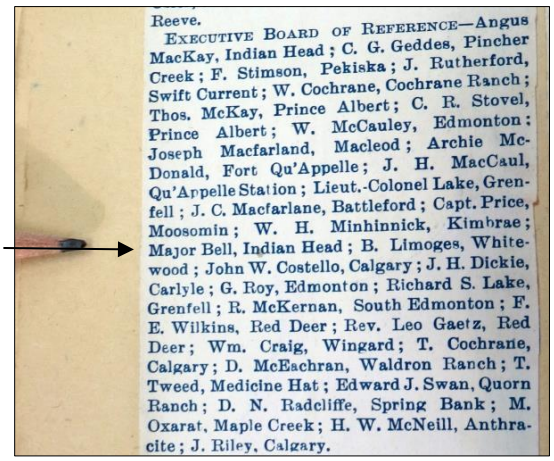
Alberta, Saskatchewan and Assiniboia is a united object lesson.

CHEAP FARES, CHEAP LIVING, CHEAP ENTRIES—but everything First-Class.

SEVEN BANDS OF MUSIC.
SEE PRIZE LIST AND ATTRACTION PROGRAMME.

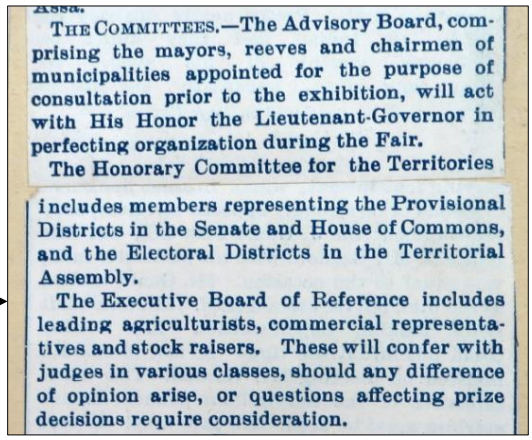
R. B. GORDON, Official Secretary, REGINA, N. W. T.

297 kb


Reeve.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF REFERENCE—Angus MacKay, Indian Head; C. G. Geddes, Pincher Creek; F. Stimson, Pekiska; J. Rutherford, Swift Current; W. Cochrane, Cochrane Ranch; Thos. McKay, Prince Albert; C. R. Stovel, Prince Albert; W. McCauley, Edmonton; Joseph Macfarland, Macleod; Archie McDonald, Fort Qu'Appelle; J. H. MacCaul, Qu'Appelle Station; Lieut.-Colonel Lake, Grenfell; J. C. Macfarlane, Battleford; Capt. Price, Moosomin; W. H. Minhinnick, Kimbrae; Major Bell, Indian Head; B. Limoges, Whitewood; John W. Costello, Calgary; J. H. Dickie, Carlyle; G. Roy, Edmonton; Richard S. Lake, Grenfell; R. McKernan, South Edmonton; F. E. Wilkins, Red Deer; Rev. Leo Gaetz, Red Deer; Wm. Craig, Wingard; T. Cochrane, Calgary; D. McEachran, Waldron Ranch; T. Tweed, Medicine Hat; Edward J. Swan, Quorn Ranch; D. N. Radcliffe, Spring Bank; M. Oxarat, Maple Creek; H. W. McNeill, Anthracite; J. Riley, Calgary.

371 kb


THE COMMITTEES.—The Advisory Board, comprising the mayors, reeves and chairmen of municipalities appointed for the purpose of consultation prior to the exhibition, will act with His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in perfecting organization during the Fair.

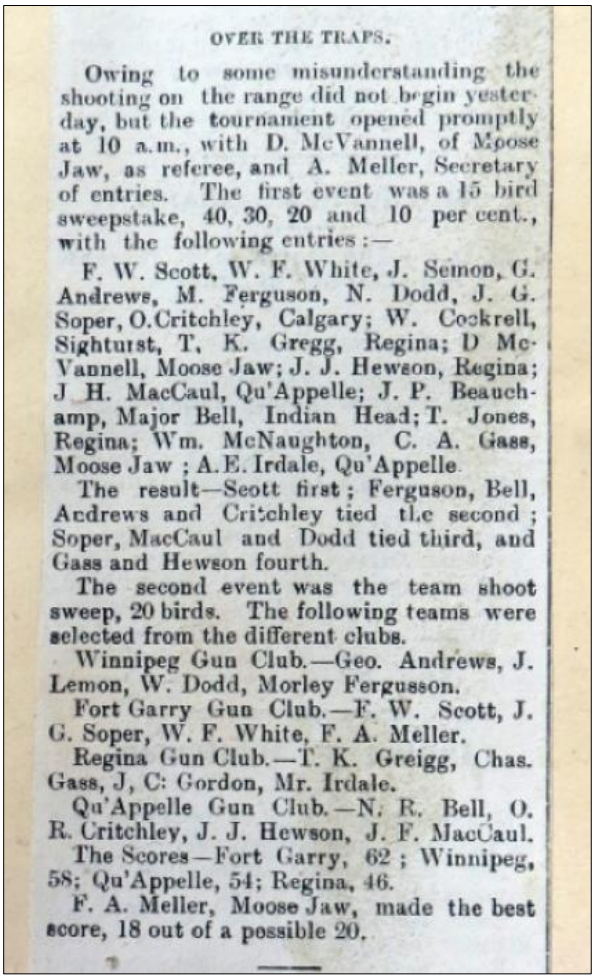
The Honorary Committee for the Territories includes members representing the Provisional Districts in the Senate and House of Commons, and the Electoral Districts in the Territorial Assembly.

The Executive Board of Reference includes leading agriculturists, commercial representatives and stock raisers. These will confer with judges in various classes, should any difference of opinion arise, or questions affecting prize decisions require consideration.

303 kb

Major Bell was also part of the Executive Board of Reference; the Board's duties are on right

Various competitions involving Major Bell and / or the Bell Farm, include the following:



OVER THE TRAPS.

Owing to some misunderstanding the shooting on the range did not begin yesterday, but the tournament opened promptly at 10 a.m., with D. McVannell, of Moose Jaw, as referee, and A. Meller, Secretary of entries. The first event was a 15 bird sweepstake, 40, 30, 20 and 10 per cent., with the following entries :—

F. W. Scott, W. F. White, J. Semon, G. Andrews, M. Ferguson, N. Dodd, J. G. Soper, O.Critchley, Calgary; W. Cockrell, Sightuist, T. K. Gregg, Regina; D McVannell, Moose Jaw; J. J. Hewson, Regina; J H. MacCaul, Qu'Appelle; J. P. Beauchamp, Major Bell, Indian Head; T. Jones, Regina; Wm. McNaughton, C. A. Gass, Moose Jaw ; A.E. Irdale, Qu'Appelle.

The result—Scott first; Ferguson, Bell, Andrews and Critchley tied the second ; Soper, MacCaul and Dodd tied third, and Gass and Hewson fourth.

The second event was the team shoot sweep, 20 birds. The following teams were selected from the different clubs.

Winnipeg Gun Club.—Geo. Andrews, J. Lemon, W. Dodd, Morley Fergusson.

Fort Garry Gun Club.—F. W. Scott, J. G. Soper, W. F. White, F. A. Meller.

Regina Gun Club.—T. K. Greigg, Chas. Gass, J, C: Gordon, Mr. Irdale.

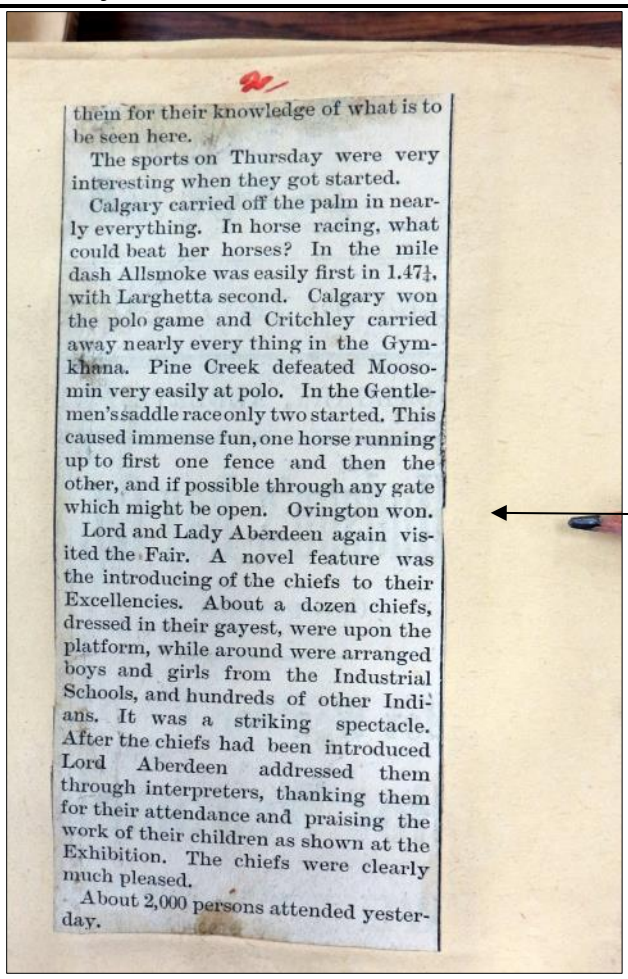
Qu'Appelle Gun Club.—N. R. Bell, O. R. Critchley, J. J. Hewson, J. F. MacCaul.

The Scores—Fort Garry, 62 ; Winnipeg, 58; Qu'Appelle, 54; Regina, 46.

F. A. Meller, Moose Jaw, made the best score, 18 out of a possible 20.

306 kb

(Above) Possibly N.R. Bell is a typo, and is supposed to be W.R. Bell? Check to see if Major Bell was a member of the Qu'Appelle Gun Club. No reference to N.R. Bell in SGS local histories or SGS obits.



them for their knowledge of what is to be seen here.

The sports on Thursday were very interesting when they got started.

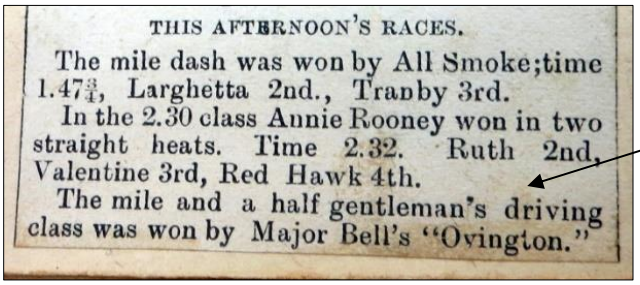
Calgary carried off the palm in nearly everything. In horse racing, what could beat her horses? In the mile dash Allsmoke was easily first in 1.47¼, with Larghetta second. Calgary won the polo game and Critchley carried away nearly every thing in the Gymkhana. Pine Creek defeated Moosomin very easily at polo. In the Gentlemen's saddle race only two started. This caused immense fun, one horse running up to first one fence and then the other, and if possible through any gate which might be open. Ovington won.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen again visited the Fair. A novel feature was the introducing of the chiefs to their Excellencies. About a dozen chiefs, dressed in their gayest, were upon the platform, while around were arranged boys and girls from the Industrial Schools, and hundreds of other Indians. It was a striking spectacle. After the chiefs had been introduced Lord Aberdeen addressed them through interpreters, thanking them for their attendance and praising the work of their children as shown at the Exhibition. The chiefs were clearly much pleased.

About 2,000 persons attended yesterday.

396 kb

Major Bell's "Ovington" wins Gentlemen's Saddle Race



THIS AFTERNOON'S RACES.

The mile dash was won by All Smoke; time 1.47¾, Larghetta 2nd., Tranby 3rd.

In the 2.30 class Annie Rooney won in two straight heats. Time 2.32. Ruth 2nd, Valentine 3rd, Red Hawk 4th.

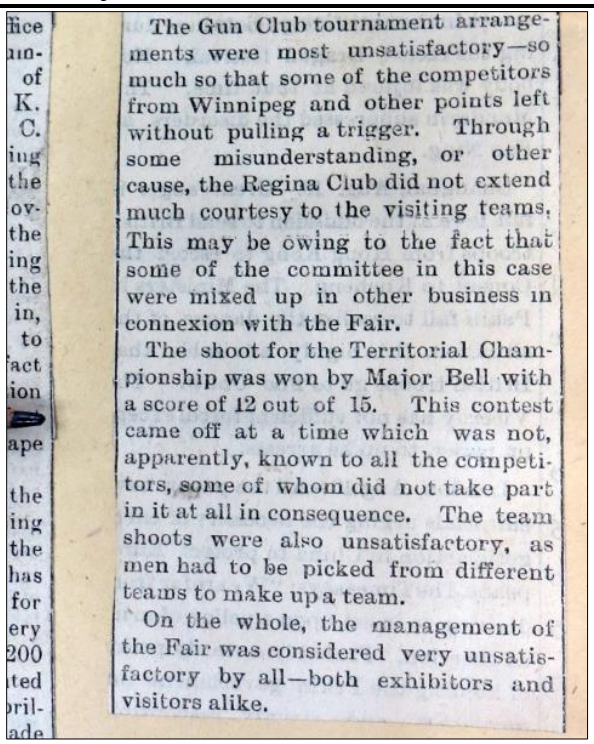
The mile and a half gentleman's driving class was won by Major Bell's "Ovington."

241 kb

Major Bell's "Ovington" wins horse race - bought in 1890

1895 – Aug. 8 – *Regina Leader*, p. 1- Ovington wins race at Territorial Exhibition

"1 ½ mile gents' saddle race, owners up, - In this race, to which we have endeavoured to do justice elsewhere, seven horses were entered, but only two faced the starter, Ovington, owned by W.R. Bell, of Indian Head, and Blizzard, owned by C.F. Thomas of Lumsden. Immediately after the start Blizzard dashed out of the track, which was open and spoiled what otherwise might have been a good race. Ovington's rider slowed up to allow Blizzard to once more regain the track. The horses finished in the order named in the slow time of 3.30 ½."



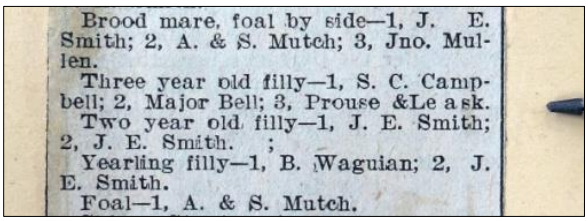
The Gun Club tournament arrangements were most unsatisfactory—so much so that some of the competitors from Winnipeg and other points left without pulling a trigger. Through some misunderstanding, or other cause, the Regina Club did not extend much courtesy to the visiting teams. This may be owing to the fact that some of the committee in this case were mixed up in other business in connexion with the Fair.

The shoot for the Territorial Championship was won by Major Bell with a score of 12 out of 15. This contest came off at a time which was not, apparently, known to all the competitors, some of whom did not take part in it at all in consequence. The team shoots were also unsatisfactory, as men had to be picked from different teams to make up a team.

On the whole, the management of the Fair was considered very unsatisfactory by all—both exhibitors and visitors alike.

339 kb

Major Bell wins Territorial Championship – Gun Club Tournament



Brood mare, foal by side—1, J. E. Smith; 2, A. & S. Mutch; 3, Jno. Mullen.

Three year old filly—1, S. C. Campbell; 2, Major Bell; 3, Prouse &Le ask.

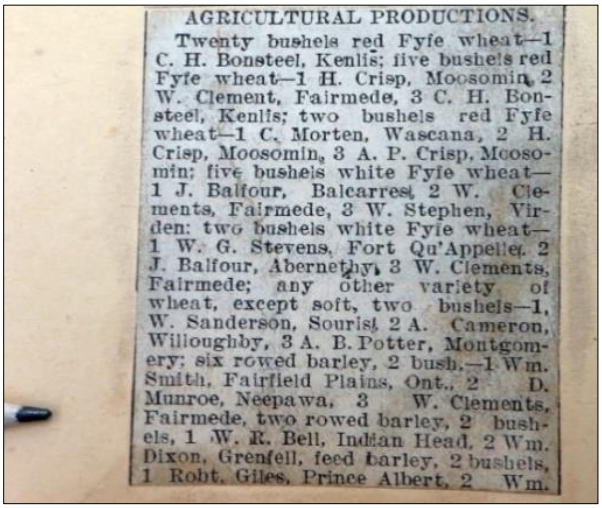
Two year old filly—1, J. E. Smith; 2, J. E. Smith. ;

Yearling filly—1, B. Waguian; 2, J. E. Smith.

Foal—1, A. & S. Mutch.

261 kb

Major Bell wins 2nd prize for Three Year Old Filly

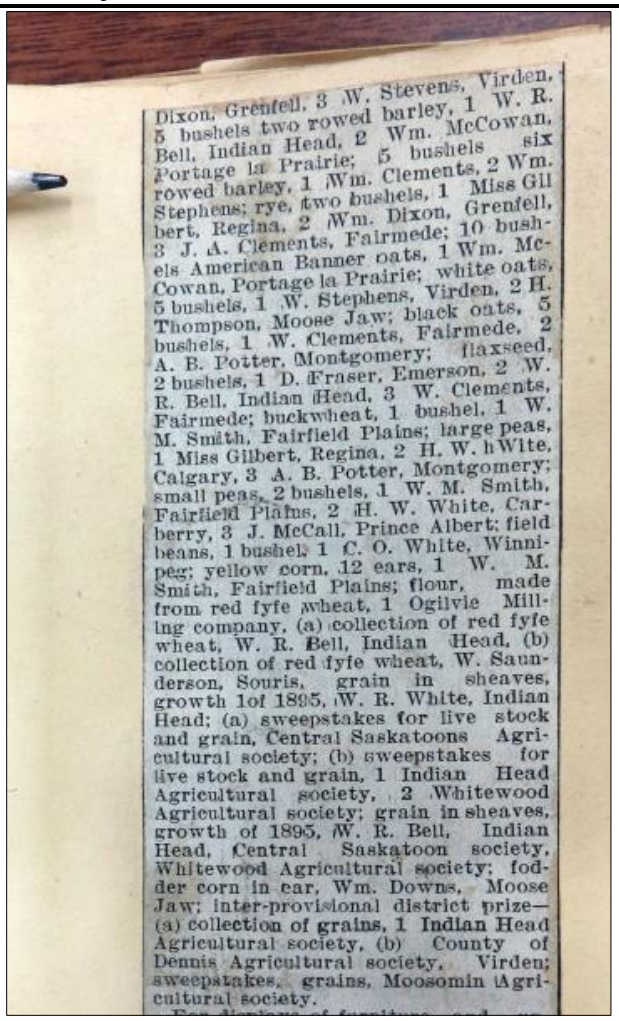


AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.

Twenty bushels red Fyfe wheat—1 C. H. Bonsteel, Kenlis; five bushels red Fyfe wheat—1 H. Crisp, Moosomin, 2 W. Clement, Fairmede, 3 C. H. Bonsteel, Kenlis; two bushels red Fyfe wheat—1 C. Morten, Wascana, 2 H. Crisp, Moosomin, 3 A. P. Crisp, Moosomin; five bushels white Fyfe wheat—1 J. Balfour, Balcarres, 2 W. Clements, Fairmede, 3 W. Stephen, Virden; two bushels white Fyfe wheat—1 W. G. Stevens, Fort Qu'Appelle, 2 J. Balfour, Abernethy, 3 W. Clements, Fairmede; any other variety of wheat, except soft, two bushels—1, W. Sanderson, Sourist 2 A. Cameron, Willoughby, 3 A. B. Potter, Montgomery; six rowed barley, 2 bush.—1 Wm. Smith, Fairfield Plains, Ont., 2 D. Munroe, Neepawa, 3 W. Clements, Fairmede, two rowed barley, 2 bushels, 1 W. R. Bell, Indian Head, 2 Wm. Dixon, Grenfell, feed barley, 2 bushels, 1 Robt. Giles, Prince Albert, 2 Wm.

290 kb

Major Bell wins 1st prize for barley



Dixon, Grenfell, 3 W. Stevens, Virden, 5 bushels two rowed barley, 1 W. R. Bell, Indian Head, 2 Wm. McCowan, Portage la Prairie; 5 bushels six rowed barley, 1 Wm. Clements, 2 Wm. Stephens; rye, two bushels, 1 Miss Gilbert, Regina, 2 Wm. Dixon, Grenfell, 3 J. A. Clements, Fairmede; 10 bushels American Banner oats, 1 Wm. McCowan, Portage la Prairie; white oats, 5 bushels, 1 W. Stephens, Virden, 2 H. Thompson, Moose Jaw; black oats, 5 bushels, 1 W. Clements, Fairmede, 2 A. B. Potter, Montgomery; flaxseed, 2 bushels, 1 D. Fraser, Emerson, 2 W. R. Bell, Indian Head, 3 W. Clements, Fairmede; buckwheat, 1 bushel, 1 W. M. Smith, Fairfield Plains; large peas, 1 Miss Gilbert, Regina, 2 H. W. hWite, Calgary, 3 A. B. Potter, Montgomery; small peas, 2 bushels, 1 W. M. Smith, Fairfield Plains, 2 H. W. White, Carberry, 3 J. McCall, Prince Albert; field beans, 1 bushel 1 C. O. White, Winnipeg; yellow corn, 12 ears, 1 W. M. Smith, Fairfield Plains; flour, made from red fyfe wheat, 1 Ogilvie Milling company, (a) collection of red fyfe wheat, W. R. Bell, Indian Head, (b) collection of red fyfe wheat, W. Saunderson, Souris, grain in sheaves, growth 1of 1895, W. R. White, Indian Head; (a) sweepstakes for live stock and grain, Central Saskatoons Agricultural society; (b) sweepstakes for live stock and grain, 1 Indian Head Agricultural society, 2 Whitewood Agricultural society; grain in sheaves, growth of 1895, W. R. Bell, Indian Head, Central Saskatoon society, Whitewood Agricultural society; fodder corn in ear, Wm. Downs, Moose Jaw; inter-provisional district prize—(a) collection of grains, 1 Indian Head Agricultural society, (b) County of Dennis Agricultural society, Virden; sweepstakes, grains, Moosomin Agricultural society.

271 kb

Major Bell wins four grain prizes (4th arrow from top: is W.R. “White”, Indian Head and W.R. Bell the same person –typo?_ Or should that be H.W. White of Carberry, Manitoba, or H.W. White of Calgary – lots of typos in this article.)

SEE ALSO: The Canadian North-West Territorial Exhibition – Prize List – two references:

- der
- https://ia600300.us.archive.org/33/items/cihm_06972/cihm_06972.pdf

1895 – July - North-West Territorial Exhibition in Regina –

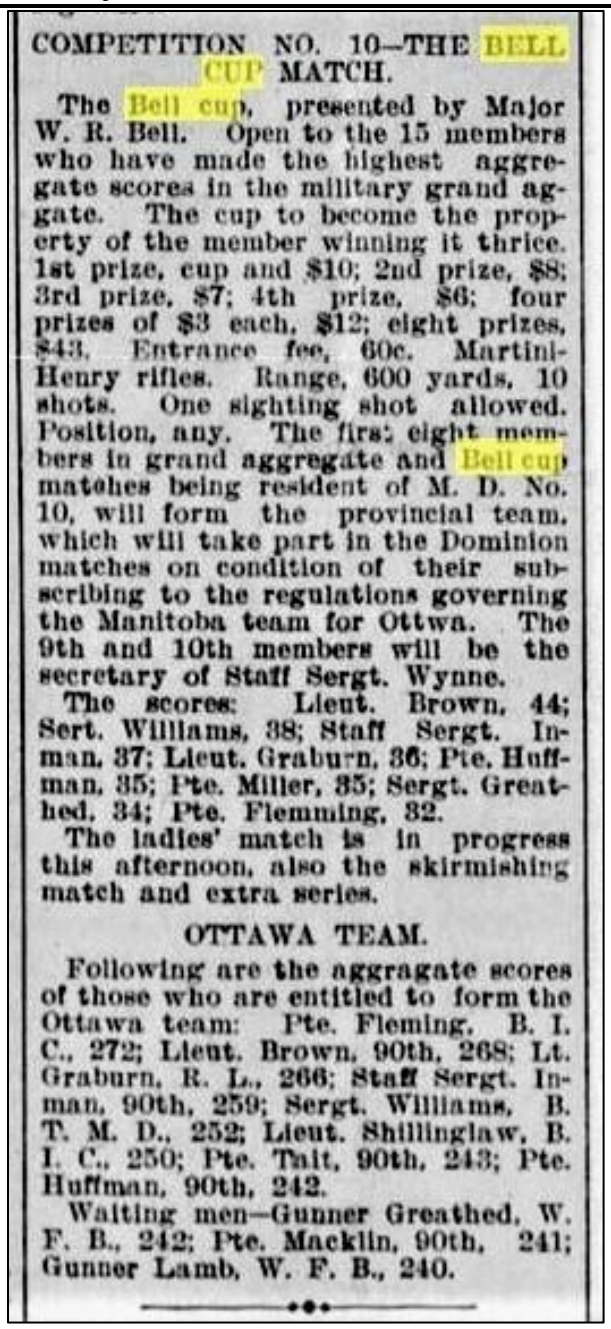
Major Bell was one of the official dignitaries and competitors, and won a major trophy:

234 kb

1895 – July 31 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 –

> "Major Bell, of Indian Head, has the thoroughbred Ovington and a number of Clyde colts." – check for details

1895 – Aug. 3 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune,* p. 4 – Competition for the Bell Cup at Manitoba Rifle Match



COMPETITION NO. 10—THE BELL CUP MATCH.

The Bell cup, presented by Major W. R. Bell. Open to the 15 members who have made the highest aggregate scores in the military grand aggate. The cup to become the property of the member winning it thrice. 1st prize, cup and $10; 2nd prize, $8; 3rd prize, $7; 4th prize, $6; four prizes of $3 each, $12; eight prizes, $4:3. Entrance fee, 60c. Martini-Henry rifles. Range, 600 yards, 10 shots. One sighting shot allowed. Position, any. The first eight members in grand aggregate and Bell cup matches being resident of M. D. No. 10, will form the provincial team, which will take part in the Dominion matches on condition of their subscribing to the regulations governing the Manitoba team for Ottwa. The 9th and 10th members will be the secretary of Staff Sergt. Wynne.

The scores: Lieut. Brown, 44; Sert. Williams, 38; Staff Sergt. Inman, 37; Lieut. Graburn, 36; Pte. Huffman, 35; Pte. Miller, 35; Sergt. Greathed, 34; Pte. Flemming, 32.

The ladies' match is in progress this afternoon, also the skirmishing match and extra series.

OTTAWA TEAM.

Following are the aggragate scores of those who are entitled to form the Ottawa team: Pte. Fleming, B. I. C., 272; Lieut. Brown, 90th, 268; Lt. Graburn, R. L., 266; Staff Sergt. Inman, 90th, 259; Sergt. Williams, B. T. M. D., 252; Lieut. Shillinglaw, B. I. C., 250; Pte. Tait, 90th, 243; Pte. Huffman, 90th, 242.

Waiting men—Gunner Greathed, W. F. B., 242; Pte. Macklin, 90th, 241; Gunner Lamb, W. F. B., 240.

1895 – August 14 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1 & 5 – Four elevators at Indian Head - capacity report

"**TO WAREHOUSE OUR GREAT CROP** . . . .

Elevators on C.P.R., Dec. 31, '94

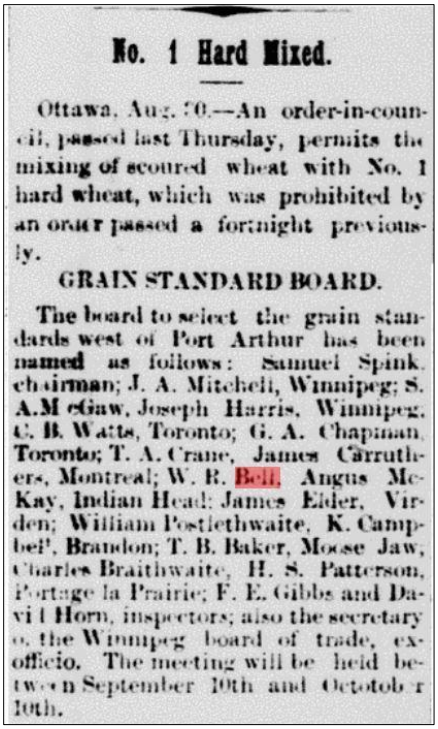
Location	Owner	Capacity In bush. . . . .
Indian Head	Bell, W.R	33,000
	Farmers' Elevator Co.	30,000
	L. W. M. Co.	25,000
	Can. Am. Farm Co.	20,000 . . . . . "

1895 – August – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments

310	Aug. 21, 1895	*Matton ?????*	No Information	
311	"	J.S. Lockie	Toronto	Ontario – in 1896 James Stewart Lockie was Manager, Imperial Trust Company of Canada, est. June 1889 – possibly associated with the financial matters of the Bell Farm; former manager, Bank of British North America; Tyrell's Society Blue Book: member National Club, 1903-04, Toronto and member St. Andrew's Society, 1903-04.

1895 – Sept. 5 – *Brandon Mail*, p. 1 – Bell Appointed to Grain Standard Board



No. 1 Hard Mixed.

Ottawa, Aug. 30.—An order-in-council, passed last Thursday, permits the mixing of scoured wheat with No. 1 hard wheat, which was prohibited by an order passed a fortnight previously.

GRAIN STANDARD BOARD.

The board to select the grain standards west of Port Arthur has been named as follows: Samuel Spink, chairman; J. A. Mitchell, Winnipeg; S. A. McGaw, Joseph Harris, Winnipeg; C. B. Watts, Toronto; G. A. Chapman, Toronto; T. A. Crane, James Carruthers, Montreal; W. R. Bell, Angus McKay, Indian Head; James Elder, Virden; William Postlethwaite, K. Campbell, Brandon; T. B. Baker, Moose Jaw, Charles Braithwaite, H. S. Patterson, Portage la Prairie; F. E. Gibbs and David Horn, inspectors; also the secretary of the Winnipeg board of trade, ex-officio. The meeting will be held between September 10th and October 10th.

81 kb

1895 – 25 September – Foreclosure by Scottish American Investment Company, Edinburgh, Scotland

[In a letter from W. John Menzies, Managing Director of the Company, Major Bell was informed that, although the Company had been involved with the Bell Farm since 1884, they were now of the opinion that their investment would not see the return that they expect, and were therefore foreclosing on their mortgage, claiming everything on the farm, and the Elevator, except for his personal goods and household furniture.

This letter probably arrived in late September or early October.] Source: ???? – check for details

1895 – Oct. 3 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Course Case reserved in Russell vs Bell over wages

Russell v. Bell.—An action by John Russell who was a farm laborer on the Bell Farm, against Major Bell for wages. Defence was that Russell agreed to work the season and left in the middle of it. Plaintiff claims that as wages were payable monthly he is entitled to such as had accrued before he left. Judgment reserved.

H. A. Robson for plaintiff, A. D. Dickson for defendant.

1895 – Oct. 15 – *Winnipeg Daily Tribune,* p. 5 - Monday - Katharine (Kate) Anne [Elwood] Bell dies on Oct. 14th at Indian Head of appendicitis. Van Horne's private train left for Brockville, Ont. on Tuesday night, and passed through Winnipeg on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

DEATH OF MRS. W. R. BELL.

Wife of Major Bell, of the Celebrated Indian Head Farm.

General and profound regret was felt in the city when it was learned last evening that Mrs. W. R. Bell had died at 6:30 p.m. on Monday at her residence at Indian Head. Outside of her immediate friends it was not even known that she was unwell, and therefore the surprise was all the greater. The deceased lady was only ill six days and was not thought to be in a dangerous condition until Sunday last. The disease was appendicitis, and on Sunday morning Dr. Blanchard was summoned by wire and went out on Sir William Van Horne's private train. He arrived, however, too late for his skill to be of any avail. The remains will be taken for interment to Brockville, Ont., where the relatives of both Major Bell and Mrs. Bell reside. The deceased lady was Miss Ellwood before her marriage, and was connected with the leading families in Brockville and Eastern Ontario. She was highly accomplished, and her qualities of heart made her beloved by all with whom she came in contact. In religious life she was a Presbyterian, and attended Knox church while living in Winnipeg.

175 kb

REMAINS OF MRS. BELL

Pass Winnipeg En Route for Brockville—Sympathy Shown by Winnipeggers.

Major Bell, of Indian Head, passed through the city to-day on his way to Brockville, Ont., with the remains of Mrs. Bell, his late wife, whose death was recorded yesterday. He was met at the station by a large number of friends, among whom were noticed Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Aikins, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Scarth, Mrs. F. H. Brydges, Mr. Darby Taylor, Mrs. J. MacBeth, Capt. Donaldson, Dr. and Mrs. Blanchard, Mr. J. A. M. Aikins, Mr. Culver, Mr. J. Patterson and others. The casket was covered with wreaths and flowers of every every description. Among these were noticed additions from Winnipeggers, including a beautiful large wreath of pink roses from the Manitoba club, and others from Dr. and Mrs. Blanchard, F. H. and Mrs. Brydges, Mr. J. A. M. Aikins, Mr. J. S. and Mrs. Aikins, J. and Mrs. MacBeth, etc.

Major Bell proceeded east on his sad journey to-day and the funeral will take place at Brockville towards the end of the week.

____kb

Winnipeg Daily Tribune: (L) Oct. 15, 1895, p. 5; (R) Oct. 16, 1895, p. 5

1895 – Oct. 16 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 6 – Death of Mrs. Bell

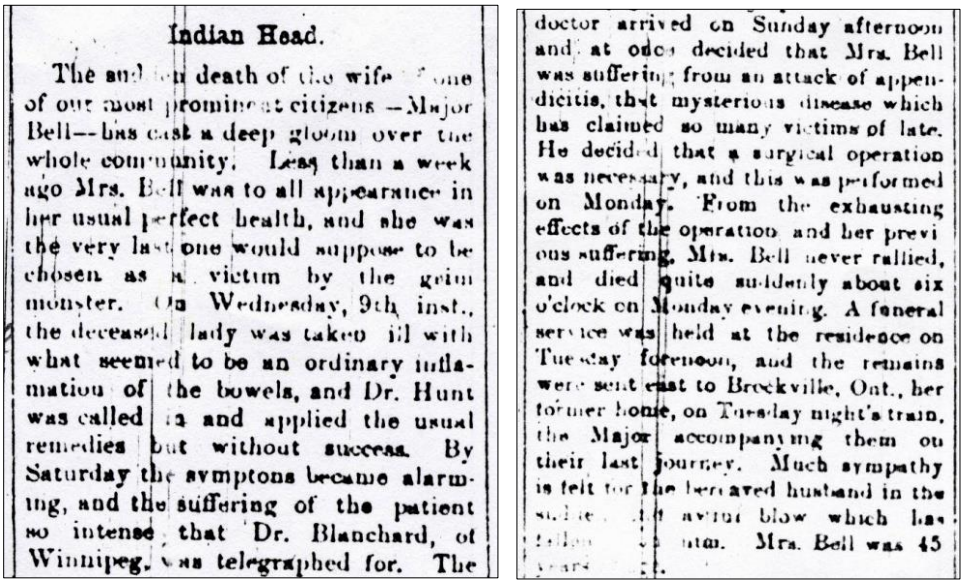
"**OBITUARY.** The news of the death of Mrs. Bell, of Indian Head, will be a shock to her many friends in Winnipeg. As far as can be ascertained there are no near relatives of the deceased lady living in the city, but it was the custom of Major Bell to spend his winters occasionally in Winnipeg, where his wife made many warm personal friends during her visits."

1895 – Oct. 16 – *Daily Mail and Empire,* Toronto, p. 3 – Death of Mrs. Bell – list of her siblings

"BROCKVILLE ITEMS. – Death of Mrs. Bell at Indian Head, N.W.T. . . . .

Brockville, Ont. Oct. 15 – (Special) – The news was received to-day by relatives here of the death at Indian Head, N.W.T. last night of Mrs. Bell, wife of Major W.R. Bell, of the Bell farm. Death was due to appendicitis. Deceased was a daughter of the late James G. Elwood, of this town. She was brought up here, and about 27 years ago was married to Major Bell, then a resident here. She leaves, besides her mother, now residing in Toronto, four sisters, Mrs. G.A. Starr, Brockville; Mrs. McKee, Barrie; Mrs. Frank McCrady, Victoria, B.C.; and Miss M.J. Elwood, Toronto. The remains will be brought here for interment and will arrive, it is expected, about Saturday."

1895 – Oct. 17 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette*:



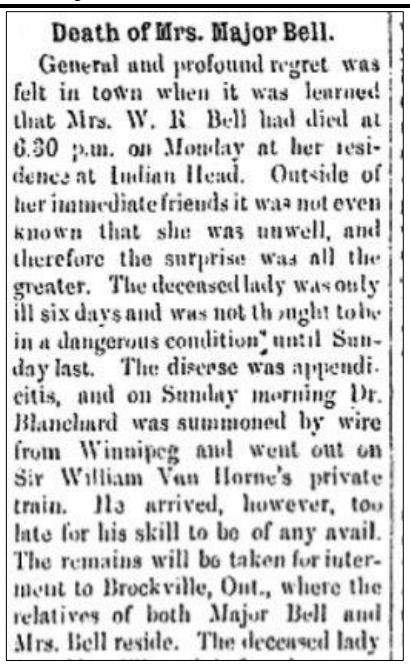
Indian Head.

The sudden death of the wife of one of our most prominent citizens —Major Bell—has cast a deep gloom over the whole community. Less than a week ago Mrs. Bell was to all appearance in her usual perfect health, and she was the very last one would suppose to be chosen as a victim by the grim monster. On Wednesday, 9th inst., the deceased lady was taken ill with what seemed to be an ordinary inflamation of the bowels, and Dr. Hunt was called in and applied the usual remedies but without success. By Saturday the symptons became alarming, and the suffering of the patient so intense, that Dr. Blanchard, of Winnipeg, was telegraphed for. The doctor arrived on Sunday afternoon and at once decided that Mrs. Bell was suffering from an attack of appendicitis, that mysterious disease which has claimed so many victims of late. He decided that a surgical operation was necessary, and this was performed on Monday. From the exhausting effects of the operation and her previous suffering, Mrs. Bell never rallied, and died quite suddenly about six o'clock on Monday evening. A funeral service was held at the residence on Tuesday forenoon, and the remains were sent east to Brockville, Ont., her former home, on Tuesday night's train, the Major accompanying them on their last journey. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved husband in the sudden and severe blow which has fallen upon him. Mrs. Bell was 45 years of age.

1895 – Oct. 17 – *Regina Leader* , p. 9 – Death of Katherine Bell

"The wife of Major Bell of Indian Head died on Monday under an operation. The remains were taken to Brockville, Ont. for burial. Deep sympathy is felt for Major Bell in this sore bereavement."

1895 – Oct 17 – Thursday - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1



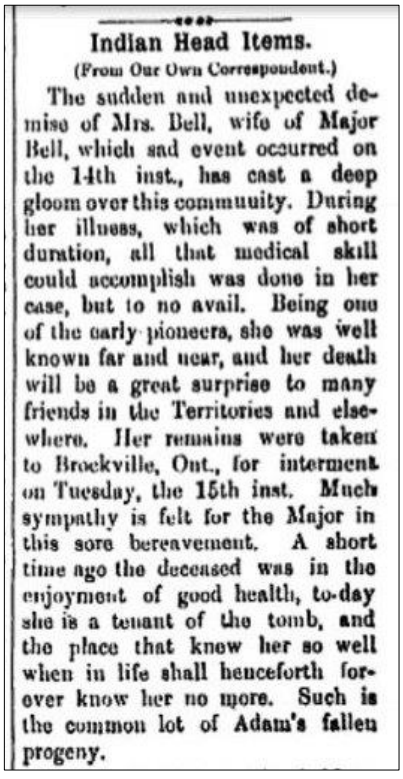
Death of Mrs. Major Bell.

General and profound regret was felt in town when it was learned that Mrs. W. R Bell had died at 6.30 p.m. on Monday at her residence at Indian Head. Outside of her immediate friends it was not even known that she was unwell, and therefore the surprise was all the greater. The deceased lady was only ill six days and was not thought to be in a dangerous condition until Sunday last. The disease was appendicitis, and on Sunday morning Dr. Blanchard was summoned by wire from Winnipeg and went out on Sir William Van Horne's private train. He arrived, however, too late for his skill to be of any avail. The remains will be taken for interment to Brockville, Ont., where the relatives of both Major Bell and Mrs. Bell reside. The deceased lady was Miss Ellwood before her marriage, and was connected with the leading families in Brockville and Eastern Ontario. She was highly accomplished, and her qualities of heart made her beloved by all with whom she came in contact. In religious life she was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Later: Local and General: "Sir William Van Horne, president of CPR, and party passed through Qu'Appelle by special train on Sunday afternoon."

1895 – Oct ____ - Katherine Anne Bell was buried in the Old Protestant Cemetery, Brockville. (Ref: Brockville Old Protestant Cemetery Burial Register, Leeds County, Elizabethtown Township, # L&G-86-2)

1895 – Oct. 24 – Thursday - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1



Indian Head Items.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The sudden and unexpected demise of Mrs. Bell, wife of Major Bell, which sad event occurred on the 14th inst., has cast a deep gloom over this community. During her illness, which was of short duration, all that medical skill could accomplish was done in her case, but to no avail. Being one of the early pioneers, she was well known far and near, and her death will be a great surprise to many friends in the Territories and elsewhere. Her remains were taken to Brockville, Ont., for interment on Tuesday, the 15th inst. Much sympathy is felt for the Major in this sore bereavement. A short time ago the deceased was in the enjoyment of good health, to-day she is a tenant of the tomb, and the place that knew her so well when in life shall henceforth forever know her no more. Such is the common lot of Adam's fallen progeny.

69 kb

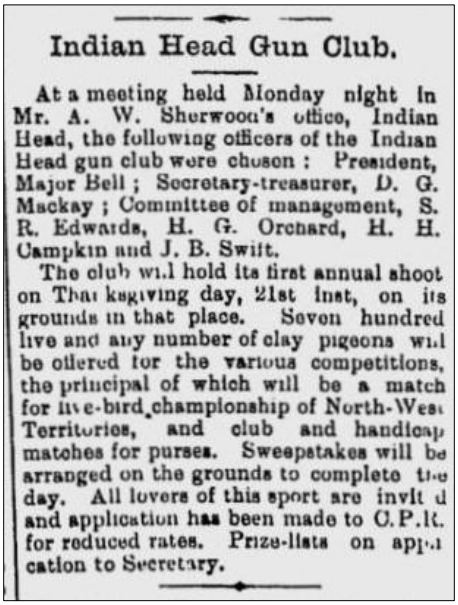
1895 – Oct. 31 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __ – check for details

[Experimental Farm had the poorest crops since its establishment.]

1895 – Nov. 2 – *The Colonies and India*, p. 8 – Death of Mrs. Bell

"Mrs. Bell, the wife of Major W.R. Bell, of the Bell Farm, died at Winnipeg on Oct. 14. The sad news will be received with regret by those who have accepted the hospitality of Major and Mrs. Bell in the North-West."

1895 – Nov. 14 – *Regina Leader* , p. __ – Indian Head Gun Club – Bell president



Indian Head Gun Club.

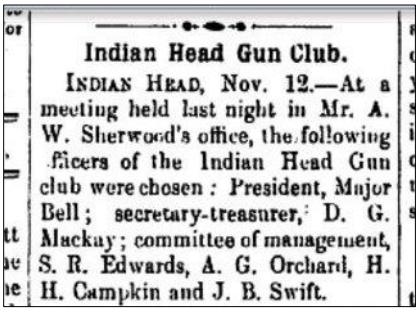
At a meeting held Monday night in Mr. A. W. Sherwood's office, Indian Head, the following officers of the Indian Head gun club were chosen: President, Major Bell; Secretary-treasurer, D. G. Mackay; Committee of management, S. R. Edwards, H. G. Orchard, H. H. Campkin and J. B. Swift.

The club will hold its first annual shoot on Thanksgiving day, 21st inst, on its grounds in that place. Seven hundred live and any number of clay pigeons will be offered for the various competitions, the principal of which will be a match for live-bird championship of North-West Territories, and club and handicap matches for purses. Sweepstakes will be arranged on the grounds to complete the day. All lovers of this sport are invited and application has been made to C.P.R. for reduced rates. Prize-lists on application to Secretary.

89 kb

1895 – Nov 14 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – check for details

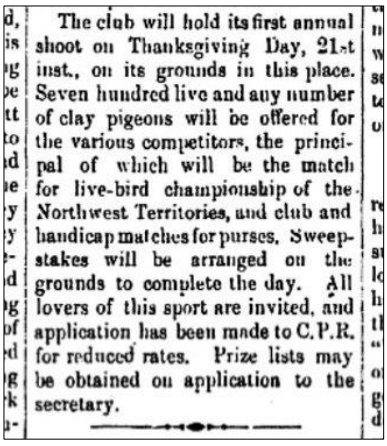
1895 – Nov. 14 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* , p. __ – Major Bell elected President of Indian Head Gun Club



Indian Head Gun Club.

INDIAN HEAD, Nov. 12.—At a meeting held last night in Mr. A. W. Sherwood's office, the following officers of the Indian Head Gun club were chosen: President, Major Bell; secretary-treasurer, D. G. Mackay; committee of management, S. R. Edwards, A. G. Orchard, H. H. Campkin and J. B. Swift.

33 kb



The club will hold its first annual shoot on Thanksgiving Day, 21st inst., on its grounds in this place. Seven hundred live and any number of clay pigeons will be offered for the various competitors, the principal of which will be the match for live-bird championship of the Northwest Territories, and club and handicap matches for purses. Sweepstakes will be arranged on the grounds to complete the day. All lovers of this sport are invited, and application has been made to C.P.R. for reduced rates. Prize lists may be obtained on application to the secretary.

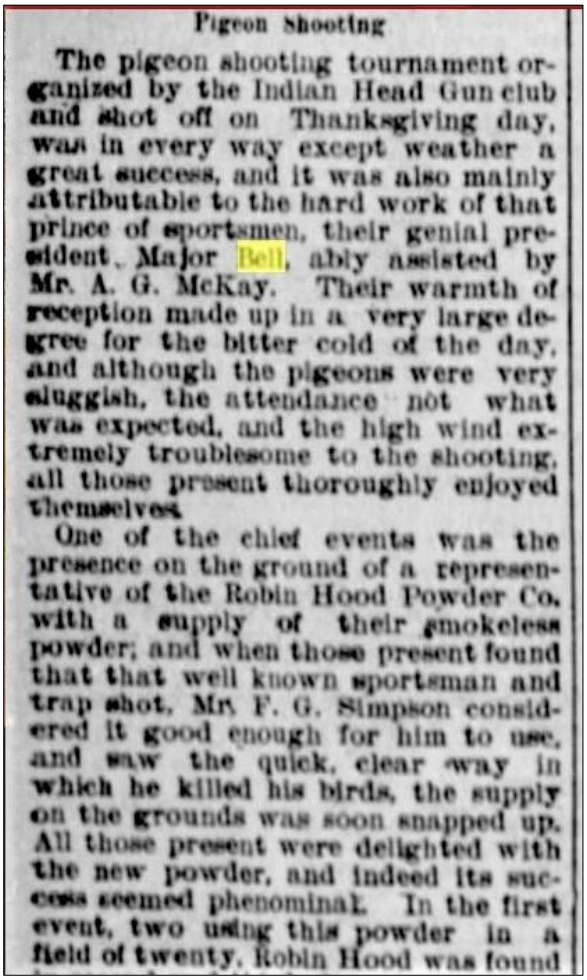
63 kb

"Success comes to him who waits; if so, Mr. Osment, merchant, Indian Head, will certainly reap his reward. It will pay any person to visit his store and inspect his frost-free, _____ that can be worked with one finger, also his improved automatic lamp. Curlers especially should examine this light." – check for details

1895 – Nov. 15 – *Moose Jaw Herald Times* – p. 8 – Major Bell president of new Indian Head Gun Club

"At a meeting of the Indian Head Gun Club, held on Monday evening of last week the following officers were chosen: President, Major Bell; secretary-treasurer, D.G. MacKay; committee of management, S.R. Edwards, A.G. Orchard, H.H. Campkin, and J.B. Swift. The Cub will hold its first annual shoot on Thanksgiving Day, 21st inst, on its grounds at that place. Seven hundred live, and any number of clay pigeons will be offered for the various competitions, the principal of which will be a match for the live-bird championship of the North-West Territories, and club and handicap matches for purses. Sweepstakes will be arranged on the grounds to complete the day. All lovers of this sport are invited, and application has been made to the C.P.R. for reduced rates. Prize list on application to the secretary."

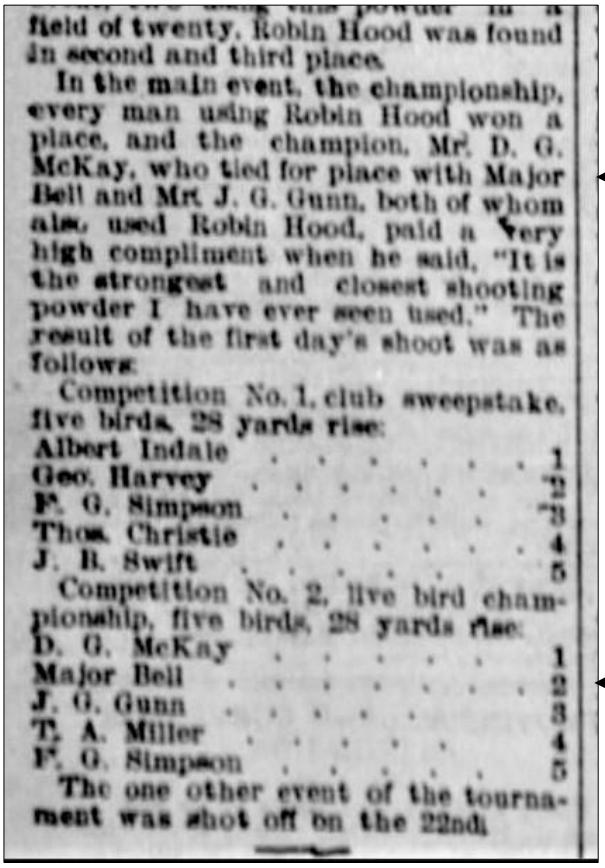
1895 – Nov. 23 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p., 4 – Major Bell at Indian Head pigeon shoot



Pigeon Shooting

The pigeon shooting tournament organized by the Indian Head Gun club and shot off on Thanksgiving day, was in every way except weather a great success, and it was also mainly attributable to the hard work of that prince of sportsmen, their genial president, Major Bell, ably assisted by Mr. A. G. McKay. Their warmth of reception made up in a very large degree for the bitter cold of the day, and although the pigeons were very sluggish, the attendance not what was expected, and the high wind extremely troublesome to the shooting, all those present thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

One of the chief events was the presence on the ground of a representative of the Robin Hood Powder Co. with a supply of their smokeless powder; and when those present found that that well known sportsman and trap shot, Mr. F. G. Simpson considered it good enough for him to use, and saw the quick, clear way in which he killed his birds, the supply on the grounds was soon snapped up. All those present were delighted with the new powder, and indeed its success seemed phenominal. In the first event, two using this powder in a field of twenty, Robin Hood was found



field of twenty, Robin Hood was found in second and third place.

In the main event, the championship, every man using Robin Hood won a place, and the champion, Mr. D. G. McKay, who tied for place with Major Bell and Mr. J. G. Gunn, both of whom also used Robin Hood, paid a very high compliment when he said, "It is the strongest and closest shooting powder I have ever seen used." The result of the first day's shoot was as follows:

Competition No. 1, club sweepstake, five birds, 28 yards rise:

Albert Indale	1
Geo. Harvey	2
F. G. Simpson	3
Thos. Christie	4
J. B. Swift	5

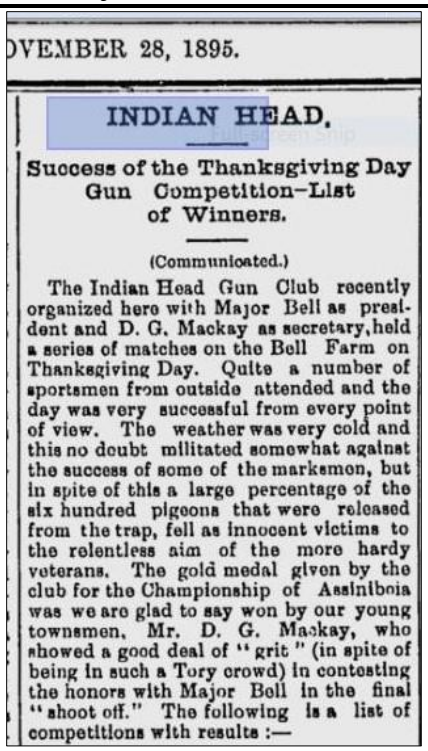
Competition No. 2, live bird championship, five birds, 28 yards rise:

D. G. McKay	1
Major Bell	2
J. G. Gunn	3
T. A. Miller	4
F. G. Simpson	5

The one other event of the tournament was shot off on the 22nd.

Part 1: 132 kb Part 2: 102 kb

1895 – Nov. 28 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 1 – Indian Head Gun Club Match, held on Bell Farm; very cold



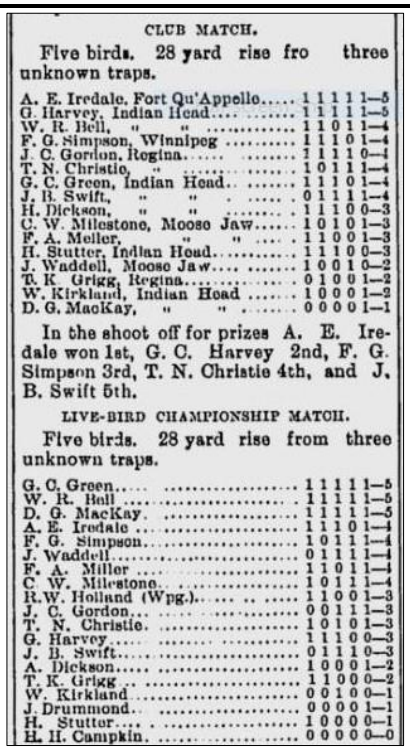
)VEMBER 28, 1895.

INDIAN HEAD.

Success of the Thanksgiving Day Gun Competition–List of Winners.

(Communicated.)

The Indian Head Gun Club recently organized here with Major Bell as president and D. G. Mackay as secretary, held a series of matches on the Bell Farm on Thanksgiving Day. Quite a number of sportsmen from outside attended and the day was very successful from every point of view. The weather was very cold and this no doubt militated somewhat against the success of some of the marksmen, but in spite of this a large percentage of the six hundred pigeons that were released from the trap, fell as innocent victims to the relentless aim of the more hardy veterans. The gold medal given by the club for the Championship of Assiniboia was we are glad to say won by our young townsmen, Mr. D. G. Mackay, who showed a good deal of "grit" (in spite of being in such a Tory crowd) in contesting the honors with Major Bell in the final "shoot off." The following is a list of competitions with results :—



CLUB MATCH.

Five birds. 28 yard rise fro three unknown traps.

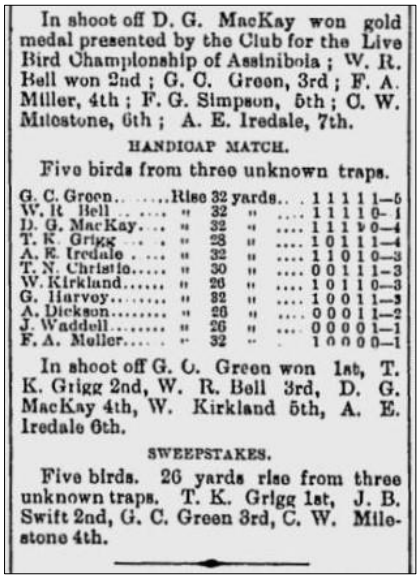
A. E. Iredale, Fort Qu'Appelle	1	1	1	1	1—5
G. Harvey, Indian Head	1	1	1	1	1—5
W. R. Bell, " "	1	1	0	1	1—4
F. G. Simpson, Winnipeg	1	1	1	0	1—4
J. C. Gordon, Regina	1	1	1	1	0—4
T. N. Christie, "	1	0	1	1	1—4
G. C. Green, Indian Head	1	1	1	0	1—4
J. B. Swift, " "	0	1	1	1	1—4
H. Dickson, " "	1	1	1	0	0—3
C. W. Milestone, Moose Jaw	1	0	1	0	1—3
F. A. Meller, " "	1	1	0	0	1—3
H. Stutter, Indian Head	1	1	1	0	0—3
J. Waddell, Moose Jaw	1	0	0	1	0—2
T. K. Grigg, Regina	0	1	0	0	1—2
W. Kirkland, Indian Head	1	0	0	0	1—2
D. G. MacKay, " "	0	0	0	0	1—1

In the shoot off for prizes A. E. Iredale won 1st, G. C. Harvey 2nd, F. G. Simpson 3rd, T. N. Christie 4th, and J. B. Swift 5th.

LIVE-BIRD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH.

Five birds. 28 yard rise from three unknown traps.

G. C. Green	1	1	1	1	1—5
W. R. Bell	1	1	1	1	1—5
D. G. MacKay	1	1	1	1	1—5
A. E. Iredale	1	1	1	0	1—4
F. G. Simpson	1	0	1	1	1—4
J. Waddell	0	1	1	1	1—4
F. A. Miller	1	1	0	1	1—4
C. W. Milestone	1	0	1	1	1—4
R. W. Holland (Wpg.)	1	1	0	0	1—3
J. C. Gordon	0	0	1	1	1—3
T. N. Christie	1	0	1	0	1—3
G. Harvey	1	1	1	0	0—3
J. B. Swift	0	1	1	1	0—3
A. Dickson	1	0	0	0	1—2
T. K. Grigg	1	1	0	0	0—2
W. Kirkland	0	0	1	0	0—1
J. Drummond	0	0	0	0	1—1
H. Stutter	1	0	0	0	0—1
E. H. Campkin	0	0	0	0	0—0



In shoot off D. G. MacKay won gold medal presented by the Club for the Live Bird Championship of Assiniboia; W. R. Bell won 2nd; G. C. Green, 3rd; F. A. Miller, 4th; F. G. Simpson, 5th; C. W. Milestone, 6th; A. E. Iredale, 7th.

HANDICAP MATCH.

Five birds from three unknown traps.

G. C. Green ..... Rise 32 yards..	1	1	1	1	1—5
W. R. Bell .... " 32 "	1	1	1	1	0—4
D. G. MacKay.... " 32 "	1	1	1	0	0—4
T. K. Grigg .... " 28 "	1	0	1	1	1—4
A. E. Iredale .... " 32 "	1	1	0	1	0—3
T. N. Christie..... " 30 "	0	0	1	1	1—3
W. Kirkland..... " 26 "	1	0	1	1	0—3
G. Harvey..... " 32 "	1	0	0	1	1—3
A. Dickson..... " 26 "	0	0	0	1	1—2
J. Waddell..... " 26 "	0	0	0	0	1—1
F. A. Meller..... " 32 "	1	0	0	0	0—1

In shoot off G. C. Green won 1st, T. K. Grigg 2nd, W. R. Bell 3rd, D. G. MacKay 4th, W. Kirkland 5th, A. E. Iredale 6th.

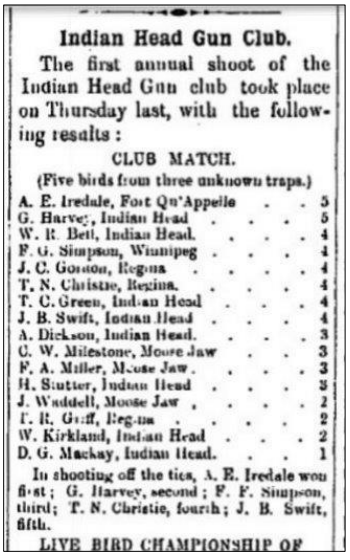
SWEEPSTAKES.

Five birds. 26 yards rise from three unknown traps. T. K. Grigg 1st, J. B. Swift 2nd, G. C. Green 3rd, C. W. Milestone 4th.

115 kb 121 kb 88 kb

1895 – 28 Nov – Qu'Appelle Progress, p. 1 – Results from Indian Head Gun Club competition

The fact that Major Bell participated in the match indicates that he returned from Brockville after his wife's funeral in October.



Indian Head Gun Club.

The first annual shoot of the Indian Head Gun club took place on Thursday last, with the following results :

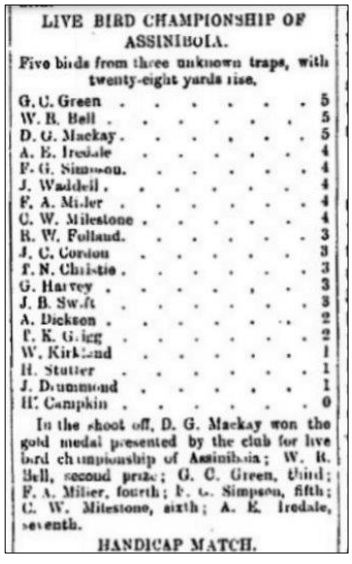
CLUB MATCH.

(Five birds from three unknown traps.)

A. E. Iredale, Fort Qu'Appelle	5
G. Harvey, Indian Head	5
W. R. Bell, Indian Head	4
F. G. Simpson, Winnipeg	4
J. C. Gordon, Regina	4
T. N. Christie, Regina	4
T. C. Green, Indian Head	4
J. B. Swift, Indian Head	4
A. Dickson, Indian Head	3
C. W. Milestone, Moose Jaw	3
F. A. Miller, Moose Jaw	3
H. Stutter, Indian Head	3
J. Waddell, Moose Jaw	2
T. R. Griff, Regina	2
W. Kirkland, Indian Head	2
D. G. Mackay, Indian Head.	1

In shooting off the ties, A. E. Iredale won first; G. Harvey, second; F. F. Simpson, third; T. N. Christie, fourth; J. B. Swift, fifth.

LIVE BIRD CHAMPIONSHIP OF



LIVE BIRD CHAMPIONSHIP OF ASSINIBOIA.

Five birds from three unknown traps, with twenty-eight yards rise.

G. C. Green	5
W. R. Bell	5
D. G. Mackay	5
A. E. Iredale	4
F. G. Simpson	4
J. Waddell	4
F. A. Miller	4
C. W. Milestone	4
R. W. Folland	3
J. C. Gordon	3
T. N. Christie	3
G. Harvey	3
J. B. Swift	3
A. Dickson	2
T. K. Grigg	2
W. Kirkland	1
H. Stutter	1
J. Drummond	1
H. Campkin	0

In the shoot off, D. G. Mackay won the gold medal presented by the club for live bird championship of Assiniboia; W. R. Bell, second prize; G. C. Green, third; F. A. Miller, fourth; F. G. Simpson, fifth; C. W. Milestone, sixth; A. E. Iredale, seventh.

HANDICAP MATCH.

HANDICAP MATCH.

(Five birds from three unknown traps.)

G. C. Green	5
D. G. Mackay	4
W. R. Bell	4
T. K. Grigg	4
A. E. Iredale	3
T. N. Christie	3
W. Kirkland	3
G. Harvey	3
A. Dickson	2
J. Waddell	1
F. A. Miller	1

In the shoot off, G. C. Green won 1st prize; T. K. Grigg, second; W. R. Bell, third; D. G. Mackay, fourth; W. Kirkland, fifth; A. E. Iredale, sixth.

SWEEPSTAKE MATCH.

1st Prize	T. K. Grigg
2nd "	J. B. Swift
3rd "	G. C. Green
4th "	C. W. Milestone

61 kb 58 kb 53kb

1895 – December – Visitors Register

Number	Date	Name	Residence	Comments

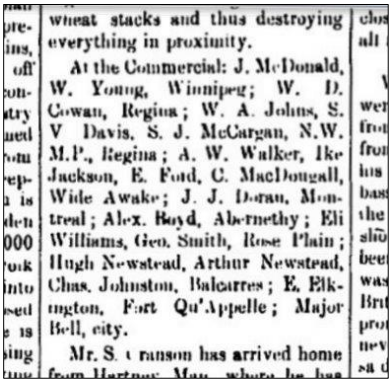
312	Dec. 1, 1895	M.J. Elwood	Toronto	Ontario – probably Mary Jane Elwood, Catherine Bell's mother

1895 – Dec. 1 – M.J. Elwood – presumed to be Katherine Bell's mother (Mary Jane Elwood) visited the Bell Farm and was the last person to sign the Bell Farm Visitor's Register. It is conjectured that she came to see the place where her daughter lived for 13 years, and where she died on Oct. 14, 1895. As well, she might have come to retrieve some of Katherine's possessions before the Bell Farm was sold. Possibly Katherine initiated creation of the Visitor's Register in 1884, and Major Bell had her mother sign the last entry in 1895 to close off this chapter in his life.

1895 – Dec 5 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p.1 – Bell Elevator

"The boiler and engine of Bell's elevator is taking a rest. Too much hard work is the cause. They have substituted a threshing machine in place of the other."

1895 – Dec 19 – *Qu'Appelle Progress* – p, 3 – "**INDIAN HEAD - . . . . At the Commercial: . . . .** Major Bell, city" – (Frank: does his residence in the Commercial Hotel mean that Major Bell has already left the Bell Farm, and is now residing in either Regina or Winnipeg?)


wheat stacks and thus destroying everything in proximity.

At the Commercial: J. McDonald, W. Young, Winnipeg; W. D. Cowan, Regina; W. A. Johns, S. V Davis, S. J. McCargan, N.W. M.P., Regina; A. W. Walker, Ike Jackson, E. Ford, C. MacDougall, Wide Awake; J. J. Doran, Montreal; Alex. Boyd, Abernethy; Eli Williams, Geo. Smith, Rose Plain; Hugh Newstead, Arthur Newstead, Chas. Johnston, Balcarres; E. Elkington, Fort Qu'Appelle; Major Bell, city.

Mr. S. Cranson has arrived home

61 kb

Also repairs to the Elevator completed:

"The boiler and engine of Bell's elevator are again in full swing, having undergone some repairs in the way of a new set of flues and a general overhauling."

1895 – Dec. 26 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major Bell in Winnipeg – perhaps en route east after permanently leaving the Bell Farm?

"PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT: . . . Major Bell, of Indian Head, registered at the Manitoba today."

1895 – Deterioration of the Bell Farmhouse and round barn – interview with Philip Leech, former Bell Farm foreman, as reported in the 17 Dec. 1957 *Regina Leader Post* article, p. 2:

The Bell Farm "had the coldest sleeping quarters in the West . . . . Single men were housed in a large bunkhouse with thick stone walls in which were many holes. When it was 40 below outside it was 42 below inside . . . . He never determined why the now

famous round barn, still standing near Indian Head, was built that way, 'but I remember in '95 part of one wall fell out and they had a deuce of a time fixing it.' "

1896

1896 – Jan. 9 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 1 – Major Bell leaves Winnipeg for Indian Head

"PERSONAL PAREAGRAPHS: Major Bell left last evening for Indian Head."

1896 – Jan. 16 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

Indian Head. "The annual meeting of ratepayers was held in the school house on the 3rd inst to transact the usual business connected with the school District. The retiring trustee was Mr. A.J. Osment, who has served the school district in this capacity for nine years. Mr. Osment's services have been so satisfactory in this office that the ratepayers thought well to re-elect him for a fourth term."

1896 – Feb. 6 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – check for details

1896 – Feb. 11 – *Ottawa Journal*, p. ___ - Major Bell visits Ottawa

"W.R. Bell, Indian Head, is in the city on business with the interior department"

1896 – Feb. 8 – Bell's Scottish investors filed claim for$124,810.33 – check for details

1896 – Feb. 13 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Bell elected V.P of Canadian military institute

"At the annual meeting of the Canadian military institute, held last week, Major Bell, of Indian Head, N.W.T., was elected one of the vice presidents, along with Col. Gwynn, of Dundas, Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P., Col. Buchan, Col. Hamilton, and Major Farewell."

1896 - Feb 13 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

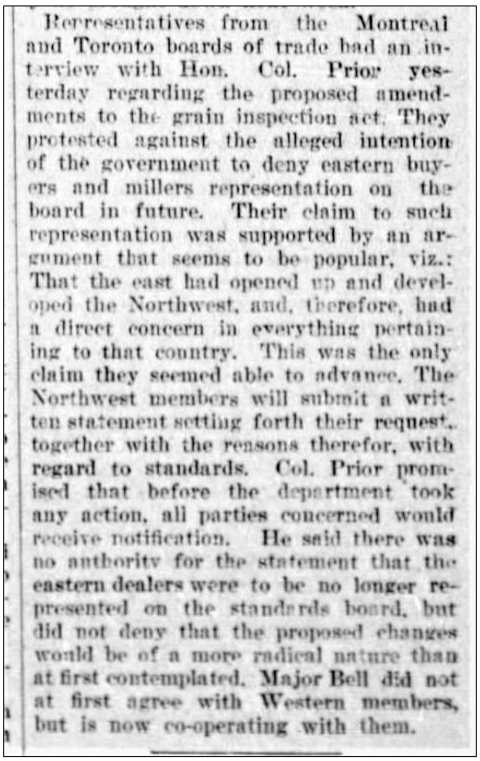
"Major Bell of Indian Head has been elected a vice president (*I think the word is 'president;' it is very blurred*) of the Canadian military institute."

1896 – Feb. 15 – *Manitoba Free Press* , p.1 - Major Bell attends Stanley Cup Hockey Game at Montreal's Victoria Rink between the Winnipeg Victorias (a.k.a. Winnipegs) and the Montreal Victorias: - played on Feb.14 - Winnipeg won: 2-0. Montreal later won the December challenge. https://www.habseyesontheprize.com/2007/03/1896-stanley-cup-champion-winnipeg.html

"After the match the Winnipegs [sic] were entertained to a pleasant supper by the officers of the vanquished club, and the best of feeling prevailed. Among the Winnipeggers present were; Nat Boyd, W. J. Boyd, Wallace Dafoe, Mr. Carelle, B. E. Chaffey, Joe. Carter, F. Picken, Geo. Soames, and brother, Hugo Ross, Major Bell, of Indian Head, and about a dozen others."

1896 – Feb. 19 – *Victoria Daily Times*, p. _ - Major Bell at Grain Standards – initially disagreed with western reps.

"GRAIN INSPECTION. Eastern Dealers and the Proposed Changes. . . . representatives from the Montreal and Toronto boards of trade . . ."



Representatives from the Montreal and Toronto boards of trade had an interview with Hon. Col. Prior yesterday regarding the proposed amendments to the grain inspection act. They protested against the alleged intention of the government to deny eastern buyers and millers representation on the board in future. Their claim to such representation was supported by an argument that seems to be popular, viz.: That the east had opened up and developed the Northwest, and, therefore, had a direct concern in everything pertaining to that country. This was the only claim they seemed able to advance. The Northwest members will submit a written statement setting forth their request, together with the reasons therefor, with regard to standards. Col. Prior promised that before the department took any action, all parties concerned would receive notification. He said there was no authority for the statement that the eastern dealers were to be no longer represented on the standards board, but did not deny that the proposed changes would be of a more radical nature than at first contemplated. Major Bell did not at first agree with Western members, but is now co-operating with them.

395 kb

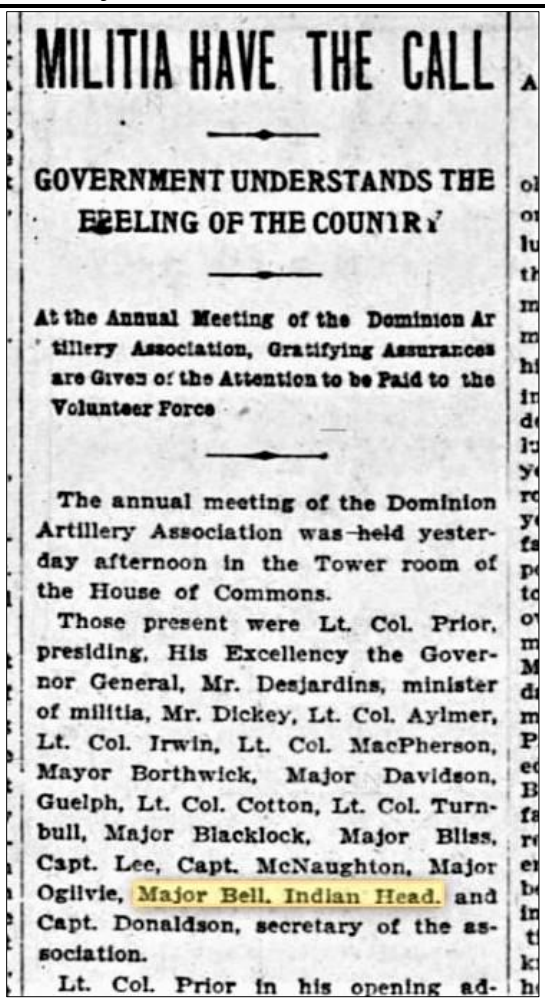
1896 – Feb. 19 – *Montreal Gazette"*, p. 1 – Major Bell attends Grain Standards meeting in Ottawa

"**The Grain Standards**. A deputation interviewed several members of the Government to-day, on the subject of the grain standards. . . . the farmers of Manitoba were represented by Senator Perley, W.W. McDonald, M.P., N. Boyd, M.P., and Major Bell, of Indian Head. The members of the government were Mr. Daly, . . . Senator Perley and the Western representatives opposed the changing of the grades each year, and advocated fixity of standards."

1896 – Feb. 25 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. __ -

""Mr. W.R. Bell Indian Head...at the Russell" – check for details

1896 – Feb. 26 - *Ottawa Journal* , p. 3 - Major Bell at Dominion Artillery Assoc. meeting in Ottawa



MILITIA HAVE THE CALL

GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THE FEELING OF THE COUNTRY

At the Annual Meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association, Gratifying Assurances are Given of the Attention to be Paid to the Volunteer Force

The annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association was held yesterday afternoon in the Tower room of the House of Commons.

Those present were Lt. Col. Prior, presiding, His Excellency the Governor General, Mr. Desjardins, minister of militia, Mr. Dickey, Lt. Col. Aylmer, Lt. Col. Irwin, Lt. Col. MacPherson, Mayor Borthwick, Major Davidson, Guelph, Lt. Col. Cotton, Lt. Col. Turnbull, Major Blacklock, Major Bliss, Capt. Lee, Capt. McNaughton, Major Ogilvie, Major Bell, Indian Head, and Capt. Donaldson, secretary of the association.

Lt. Col. Prior in his opening ad-

132 kb

1896 – March 3 - *Winnipeg Tribune* , p. 4 – Major Bell is staying at the Manitoba Hotel

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, is at the Manitoba."

1896 – March 5 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p.8 , col. 3 – Major Bell returns to Indian Head from visit to East

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, has returned from a visit to the east."

(FRANK: Is this the last mention of Major Bell at Indian Head?]

[MICHELLE: I feel confident Major Bell left Indian Head in the last week of March 1896.]

1896 – March 17 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5 – Major Bell leaves Winnipeg for Ottawa

"**PEOPLE WE TALK ABOUT. Movements of Winnipeggers and Travellers Here and Elsewhere.**
Major Bell left for Ottawa to-day. He will be absent about a month."

1896 – March 24 - *Montreal Gazette* , p. __ - Major Bell introduced at the (Grain or Stock ?) Exchange

"The following gentlemen were introduced on 'Change yesterday: Mr. W.R. Bell, of Indian Head, N.W.T., by Mr. A.Z. Thomson, Mr. Bennet, of Boston, by Mr. Robert Meighen; Mr. H.N. Burns, of Toronto, by Mr. R. Peddy, and Mr. A. Goetz, of Colorado Springs, by Mr. E.L. Clark."

1896 – March 26 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – Sheppard takes over Bell Farm management

"Mr. Geo. Willis and family arrived on Monday the 16th inst, to take the management of Lord Brassey's Farm here. Mr. F. Sheppard, the late manager, will have the management of the Bell Farm, in the interest of the Mortgage Co., represented by Mr. J.A.M. Aikins, of Winnipeg, for the present season."

("Mr. C. Langlois and family arrived from Minneapolis last Wednesday and purpose making this country their future home. Mr. Langlois is a brother-in law of Mr. C. Pelletier of Katepwa and purposes entering into partnership with him in the manufacture of brick etc.")

"Mr. A.J. Osment has quite a force of men at work putting things in shape for his brick yard."

1896 – April 1 – *Nor'Wester* (Winnipeg), p. 8 – Bell Farm to be broken up into ¼ sections – check for details

1896 – April 1 - *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 - Davidson reports Bell Farm to be divided

"Mr. Davidson of Indian Head is in the city. He says the people of Indian Head were greatly pleased over the announcement that the Bell Farm was to be divided into quarter sections."

1896 – April 2 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p.8 – Bell Farm to be divided into ¼ sections

"Mr. Davidson, proprietor of the Indian Head Hotel, is in the city [Winnipeg] for the purpose of making preparations for the building of a new hotel structure to replace his present one. Mr. Davidson said last evening that the people of Indian Head were greatly pleased over the announcement that the Bell farm was to be divided into quarter sections. It will greatly assist in building up the town, and increasing the retail trade, if the property is settled by good farmers. – *Free Press*"

1896 – April 2 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – check for details

1896 – April 2 - *Montreal Gazette*, p. __ -

"Col. W.R. Bell of Winnipeg, arrived at the Hall yesterday" – check for details

1896 – April 4 – Supreme Court of the North-West Territories awards Bell's Scottish creditors their claim, which resulted in them taking over the Bell Farm and all its assets – check for details

(Source: Ed Morgan's article "The Bell Farm", in *Saskatchewan History*, Vol XIX, 1896, p. 59, footnotes 83 – [Supreme Court of the North-West Territories, No. 71-1896: Scottish-American Investment Company Ltd. Vs. William Robert Bell, statement of claim.]

1896 – April 16 – *Edmonton Bulletin,* p. 1 – Weeds on Bell Farm

"REGINA STANDARD: 'The question raised by our Saltoun correspondent, why the government should select the district which the Bell farm has infested with noxious weeds as the place to buy seed grain for distribution, is a query quite in order."

1896 – April 22 – *Lethbridge News*, p. 2 – Bell Farm to be broken into ¼ sections

"The Bell farm at Indian Head is to be broken up into quarter sections. The people in the neighbourhood are much pleased about this, as it will increase business there."

1896 – April 23 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 3 – Bell Farm to be broken up into ¼ sections

"The Bell farm at Indian Head is to be broken up into quarter sections. The people in the neighbourhood are much pleased about this, as it will increase business there."

1896 – April 24 – *Moose Jaw Times* – Bell Farm to be broken up into ¼ sections

"The Bell farm at Indian Head is to be broken up into quarter sections. The people in the neighbourhood are much pleased about this, as it will increase business there."

1896 – May 2 - *Montreal Gazette*, p. _ - Major Bell, and 83 horses, sails to England on the RMS Vancouver

MARINE MATTERS.

The Allan Line R. M. S. Vancouver, Capt. Williams, presented an animated scene last night, being crowded with passengers and their friends. The saloon was tastefully decorated with flowers and choice plants. Through the thoughtfulness of Chief Steward Latimer the voyageurs were able to entertain their friends to an excellently served supper, which was greatly appreciated, and up to midnight an enjoyable time was spent. Among the visitors were a large number of members of the Royal Arcanum, of New York. The passenger list, which is exceptionally large for the season of the year, augurs well for the balance of the season. The saloon passengers are as follows: Major Bell, Mrs. G. E. Bristol, Miss Lilly Bristol, Mrs. Binns, Master Binns, Miss Binns, Dr. Gordon Byers, Mr. Harold H. Baker, Miss F. Baker, Miss Code, Miss Florence Cochrane, Mrs. Frank Crawford, Mrs. J. M. Campbell, Master Reggie Campbell, Miss Ethel Campbell, Miss Carlysle, Mrs. Crombie, Miss Marguerite Crombie, Mr. Wm. Chadwick, Mr. Nevil N. Evans, Rev. Jas. Empringham, Mrs. Empringham, Mr. G. W. Field, Mrs. Field, Mr. John C. Green, Mrs. Green, Dr. L. O. Gauthier, Dr. A. Groatman, Hon. Justice Gwynne, Mrs. Gwynne, Miss Gwynne, Mr. G. M. Holbrooke, Miss Emily Horton, Mrs. Alf. W. Hadrill, Master G. Hadrill, Mr. F. C. Ireland, Mrs. Ireland, Mr. F. J. Jenners, Miss A. M. Jenners, Mr. T. J. Jay, Mrs. Jay, Mrs. W. H. Kirby, Miss F. E. Kirby, Mr. W. F. Kirby, Mr. George Macnoe, Mrs. Macnoe, Master Geo. Macnoe, Rev. J. Mackie, Mrs. Mackie, Master W. B. Mackie, Miss Veda McEvers, Mr. S. R. Neil, Mrs. Pearce, Mr. H. H. Peters, Mrs. J. Robertson, Dr. Robinson, Dr. C. O. Sampson, Mr. J. W. L. Smyth, Mrs. Smyth, Miss A. Smyth, Miss Agnes Skeffington, Mr. Ernest H. Taafe, Master Walter Taafe, Mr. Jas. H. Tee, Hon. Mrs. Waud, Mr. Percy M. Watkins, Mr. Jas. Wilson, Mrs. Bullock Webster, Miss E. Webster, Miss H. Webster, Mr. H. Fitz-Roy Webb, Mr. Robert Wright. In addition to a full general cargo, the Vancouver also takes to the Old Country 83 horses.

1896 – May 14 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __

"It is reported that private information has been received that we may expect to see Major Bell back shortly."

1896 – May 28 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette ,* p. __ – Bell Property For Sale

"Major Bell's property which is to be offered for sale on the 30th inst comprises 73 horses, 13 cattle, elevator, household furniture etc. While of course we are sorry that circumstances required the disposal of those effects, there can be no doubt that if the outcome in the breaking up of the Bell farm into numerous farms of the average size, it will be immensely to the advantage of the town and district. If offered in quarter sections at a reasonable price, this rich piece of land can scarcely fail to speedily become the home of a number of prosperous farmers."

1896 – June 4 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – check for details

1896 – June 11 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

"The sale of the Bell elevator takes place on Saturday."

1896 – June 12 - *Manitoba Daily Free Press* , p. 6 - Bell in London, England on May

"PERSONAL: PARAGRAPHS: . . . . Major Bell, of this city [Winnipeg], was a guest at the Canadian government's office in London, Eng., during the week ending May 26th."

1896 – June 13 - *The Colonies and India* , p. _ – Major Bell attended a meeting at the Royal Colonial Institute; a paper on "Canada and Ocean Highways" read by Sanford Fleming CMG

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, commented on the immense importance of telegraphic communication between the United Kingdom and her Colonies passing entirely through British lands, and thus beyond the reach of tampering. The tenders sent in for the new cable would probably very soon result in their having excellent communication both on the Atlantic and on the Pacific side. The Messageries Maritimes Company was receiving 600,000*l.* in subsidy from the French Government, and the German line of steamers to Delagoa Bay was subsidised to the extent of 45,000*l.* a year, and when they considered the great speed and high engine power necessary to a successful passenger traffic it was obvious that, in the matter of Canada, where there was a comparatively small population, assistance by subsidy must be given in the first instance until the country was sufficiently developed. Therefore they ought to welcome the evidence that the Government were coming forward to meet the Canadians half-way.

Mr. FLEMING briefly replied. A vote of thanks was then passed to the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

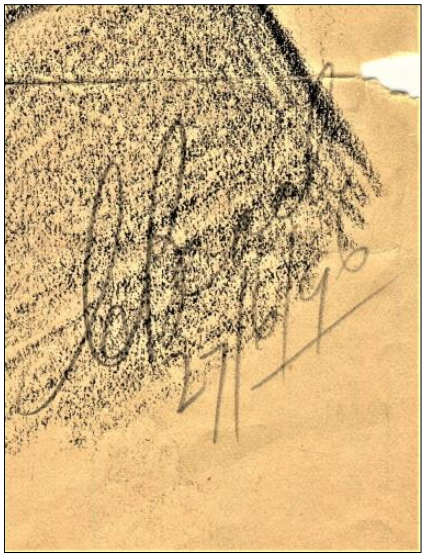
The following were among those present:—Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K.C.M.G. (late Premier of Canada), Sir Donald A. Smith, G.C.M.G. (High Commissioner for Canada), Sir William E. Maxwell, K.C.M.G. (Governor of Gold Coast Colony), Sir Charles E. F. Stirling, Bart., Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Sir Sidney Shippard, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-General J. W. Laurie, M.P., Lieutenant-General R. W. Lowry, C.B., Messrs. Cavendish Boyle, C.M.G. (Government Secretary, British Guiana), Frederick Evans, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary, Jamaica), J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., Mrs. Colmer, Mr. Hugh Fleming, M.D., Major-General Sir Henry Green, K.C.S.I., C.B., Lady and Miss Green, Messrs. R. B. Johnson, J. Harris, Richmond Henty (Victoria), Stephen Bourne, Thos. Macfarlane (Canada), J. H. Wix, G. H. Cressy, M.D., J. C. Ernest Parkes (Sierra Leone), P. A. Renner (Gold Coast), J. T. Ralston (New South Wales), F. A. Du Croz, G. Turner, W. H. Heaton, J. L. B. Le Maistre, Dr. P. J. Bayn, Messrs. F. H. Dangar (New South Wales), W. C. Tyndale, H. Hemsley, A. J. Sievers, R. Crichton (Victoria), Miss Sievers, Dr. J. Keenan (Transvaal), Com.-General Lardner, Major Edward Daubeney, Messrs. W. G. Lardner, Paterson, B. Biggs, C. E. Cory Lowry, Andrew Mure (Mauritius), C. E. Fletcher, G. Le Gros, I. Taylor, Captain W. Ashby (New Zealand), Messrs. E. Ames (Ceylon), A. Birch, L. M. Byles, E. G. Barr, W. H. L. Bailey, H. F. Burgess, J. B. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Biggs (Burma), Dr. A. M. Brown, Mrs. Barrett, Major Bell, Mrs. Boswell, Miss E. E. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bain, Mr. W. S. and Miss Cuff, Mr. C. and Miss Cuff, Mr. C. and Miss A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. N. V. Collier, Mr. and Mrs. F. Caulfeild, Miss D. Caulfeild, Miss Cole, Miss S. Coates, Messrs. Croucher, J. Crowe, T. B. Campbell, J. Dewe, Mr. and Mrs. C. Dudley (Cyprus), Mr. Dench, Dr. R. Dawson (Canada), Mrs. G.

1896 – June 18 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

"Major Bell's favourite old horse Ovington met with an accident on the farm yesterday and had to be shot." (Frank: looks like the world is collapsing all around Major Bell during the past year or two.: the elevator and flour mill burned in Sept. 1893; the creditors have taken over the Farm in Sept. 1895.); his wife Katherine died in Oct. 1895, and his horse Ovington died in June 1896)

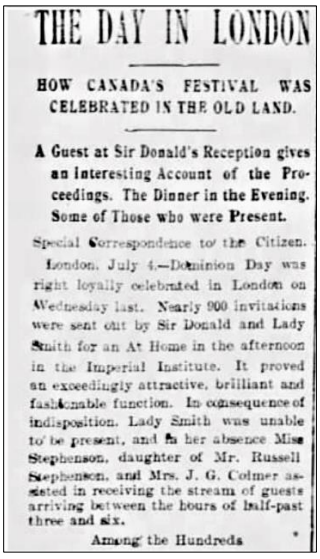
1896 – June 27 – Major Bell has a sketch drawn of himself by an unidentified artist, while participating in a shooting match at the Indian Exhibition in London. (See below: 1896 – 21 July - *The Bideford Weekly Gazette,* p. __)

68 kb



284 kb

1896 – July 4 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen* p._ - Major Bell at London, Eng. celebration hosted by Sir Donald Smith



THE DAY IN LONDON

HOW CANADA'S FESTIVAL WAS CELEBRATED IN THE OLD LAND.

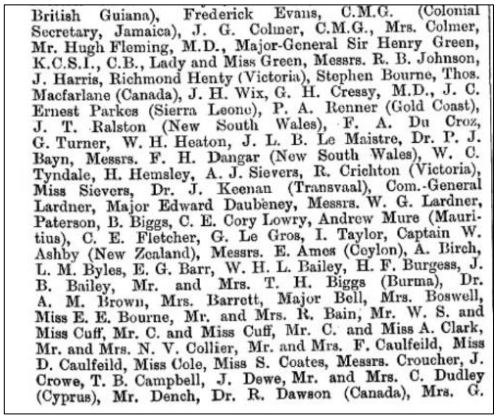
A Guest at Sir Donald's Reception gives an Interesting Account of the Proceedings. The Dinner in the Evening. Some of Those who were Present.

Special Correspondence to the Citizen.

London, July 4.—Dominion Day was right loyally celebrated in London on Wednesday last. Nearly 900 invitations were sent out by Sir Donald and Lady Smith for an At Home in the afternoon in the Imperial Institute. It proved an exceedingly attractive, brilliant and fashionable function. In consequence of indisposition, Lady Smith was unable to be present, and in her absence Miss Stephenson, daughter of Mr. Russell Stephenson, and Mrs. J. G. Colmer assisted in receiving the stream of guests arriving between the hours of half-past three and six.

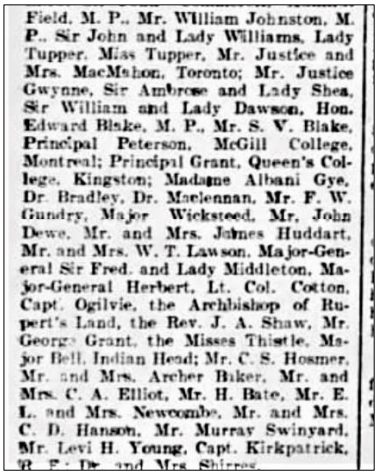
Among the Hundreds

514



British Guiana), Frederick Evans, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary, Jamaica), J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., Mrs. Colmer, Mr. Hugh Fleming, M.D., Major-General Sir Henry Green, K.C.S.I., C.B., Lady and Miss Green, Messrs. R. B. Johnson, J. Harris, Richmond Henty (Victoria), Stephen Bourne, Thos. Macfarlane (Canada), J. H. Wix, G. H. Cressy, M.D., J. C. Ernest Parkes (Sierra Leone), P. A. Renner (Gold Coast), J. T. Ralston (New South Wales), F. A. Du Croz, G. Turner, W. H. Heaton, J. L. B. Le Maistre, Dr. P. J. Bayn, Messrs. F. H. Dangar (New South Wales), W. C. Tyndale, H. Hemsley, A. J. Sievers, R. Crichton (Victoria), Miss Sievers, Dr. J. Keenan (Transvaal), Com.-General Lardner, Major Edward Daubeney, Messrs. W. G. Lardner, Paterson, B. Biggs, C. E. Cory Lowry, Andrew Mure (Mauritius), C. E. Fletcher, G. Le Gros, I. Taylor, Captain W. Ashby (New Zealand), Messrs. E. Ames (Ceylon), A. Birch, L. M. Byles, E. G. Barr, W. H. L. Bailey, H. F. Burgess, J. B. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Biggs (Burma), Dr. A. M. Brown, Mrs. Barrett, Major Bell, Mrs. Boswell, Miss E. E. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bain, Mr. W. S. and Miss Cuff, Mr. C. and Miss Cuff, Mr. C. and Miss A. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. N. V. Collier, Mr. and Mrs. F. Caulfeild, Miss D. Caulfeild, Miss Cole, Miss S. Coates, Messrs. Croucher, J. Crowe, T. B. Campbell, J. Dewe, Mr. and Mrs. C. Dudley (Cyprus), Mr. Dench, Dr. R. Dawson (Canada), Mrs. G.

427



Field, M. P., Mr. William Johnston, M. P., Sir John and Lady Williams, Lady Tupper, Miss Tupper, Mr. Justice and Mrs. MacMahon, Toronto; Mr. Justice Gwynne, Sir Ambrose and Lady Shea, Sir William and Lady Dawson, Hon. Edward Blake, M. P., Mr. S. V. Blake, Principal Peterson, McGill College, Montreal; Principal Grant, Queen's College, Kingston; Madame Albani Gye, Dr. Bradley, Dr. Maclennan, Mr. F. W. Gundry, Major Wicksteed, Mr. John Dewe, Mr. and Mrs. James Huddart, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Lawson, Major-General Sir Fred. and Lady Middleton, Major-General Herbert, Lt. Col. Cotton, Capt. Ogilvie, the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, the Rev. J. A. Shaw, Mr. George Grant, the Misses Thistle, Major Bell, Indian Head; Mr. C. S. Hosmer, Mr. and Mrs. Archer Baker, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Elliot, Mr. H. Bate, Mr. E. L. and Mrs. Newcombe, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Hanson, Mr. Murray Swinyard, Mr. Levi H. Young, Capt. Kirkpatrick, R. F.; Dr. and Mrs. Shirres,

476 kb

1896 – July 6 – *Ottawa Daily Citizen*, p. 5 – Major Bell visits the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, England.

> "Lieut. General Hewett, R.E., formerly Commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont., was met on the Strand a few days ago looking particularly well. He is now Commandant of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. The presentation of his card at Woolwich Arsenal a few days ago, in addition to the usual War Office order, enabled your correspondent and Major Bell of Indian Head, N.W.T., to see the wonderful establishment, where 15,000 men and boys are employed, to exceptional advantage. We had a guide "all to ourselves." As it was Major Bell's first visit the place was a revelation."

1896 – July 9 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> [under the Fort Qu'Appelle head, a report on a church picnic at Vidal's Point.] ". . . Mr. Osment's steam launch 'Loretta' as a pleasing feature of the amusements provided . . . " – check for details

1896 – July 15 – *Ottawa Journal*, p. 6 – Major Bell competes in London for the Queen's prize

> "Major Bell, of Winnipeg, who retired some twenty-five years ago, has entered for the Queen's prize."

1896 – July 15 – *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1 – Major Bell competes in London for the Queen's prize

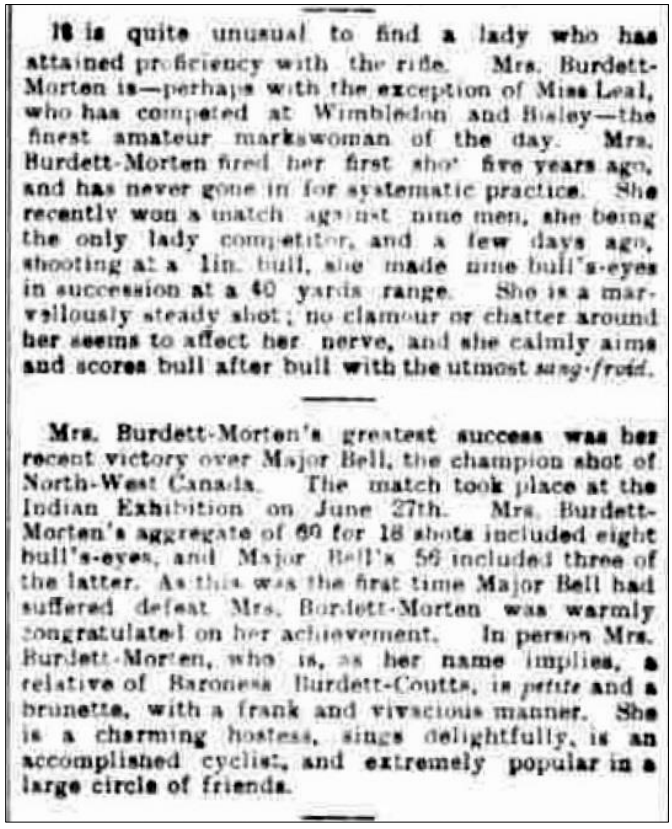
> "Major Bell, of Winnipeg, who retired some twenty-five years ago, has entered for the Queen's prize."

1896 - July 17 - *Moose Jaw Times, p. 8* *[NOTE: Bell's address is Winnipeg, not Indian Head]*

> "Quite a number of our Canadian marksmen are taking part in the annual rifle shooting contests and Bisley, England, and are doing remarkably well. Major Bell, of Winnipeg, who retired from active service some 25 years ago, has entered for the Queen's prize."

1896 – July 21 - *The Bideford Weekly Gazette* –

Major Bell is beaten in a rifle competition by Mrs. Burdett-Morten – first loss for the Major. This article also confirms that Major Bell was in England on June 27, 1896, attending the Indian Exhibition.



It is quite unusual to find a lady who has attained proficiency with the rifle. Mrs. Burdett-Morten is—perhaps with the exception of Miss Leal, who has competed at Wimbledon and Bisley—the finest amateur markswoman of the day. Mrs. Burdett-Morten fired her first shot five years ago, and has never gone in for systematic practice. She recently won a match against nine men, she being the only lady competitor, and a few days ago, shooting at a 1in. bull, she made nine bull's-eyes in succession at a 40 yards range. She is a marvellously steady shot; no clamour or chatter around her seems to affect her nerve, and she calmly aims and scores bull after bull with the utmost *sang-froid*.

Mrs. Burdett-Morten's greatest success was her recent victory over Major Bell, the champion shot of North-West Canada. The match took place at the Indian Exhibition on June 27th. Mrs. Burdett-Morten's aggregate of 60 for 18 shots included eight bull's-eyes, and Major Bell's 56 included three of the latter. As this was the first time Major Bell had suffered defeat Mrs. Burdett-Morten was warmly congratulated on her achievement. In person Mrs. Burdett-Morten, who is, as her name implies, a relative of Baroness Burdett-Coutts, is *petite* and a brunette, with a frank and vivacious manner. She is a charming hostess, sings delightfully, is an accomplished cyclist, and extremely popular in a large circle of friends.

154 kb

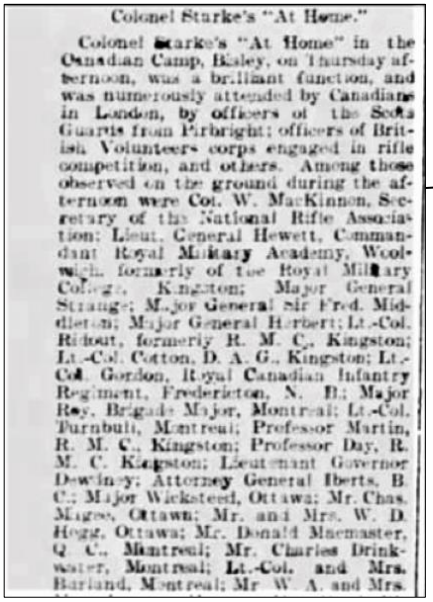
1896 – July 23 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

July 23, 1896: *(The paper is called The Vidette now, not the Qu'Appelle Vidette. This probably happened Feb 27, 1896 when*]"The Vidette appears today in a new form and dress. It will in future be issued in the joint interests of the Fort Qu'Appelle and Indian Head districts."

1896 – July 30 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Mr. Osment successfully completed the burning of his first kiln of brick last week and claims he will be able to supply a better and larger brick than any heretofore placed on the local markets."

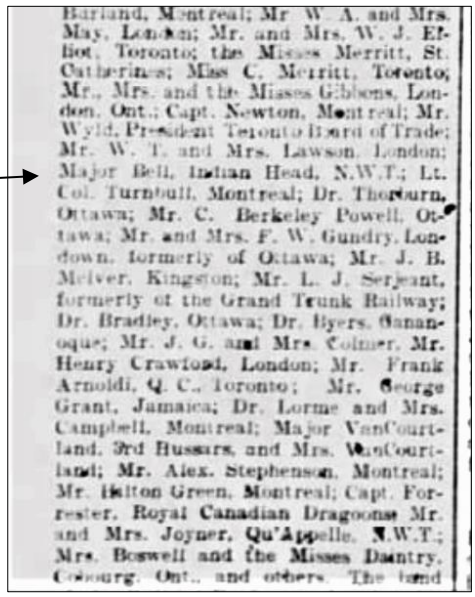
1896 – Aug. 4 - *Ottawa Daily Citizen* p. _ - Major Bell attends Col. Starke's "At Home", & Middleton, Hewett, Dewdney, Dr. Thorburn, Colmer, etc.



Colonel Starke's "At Home."

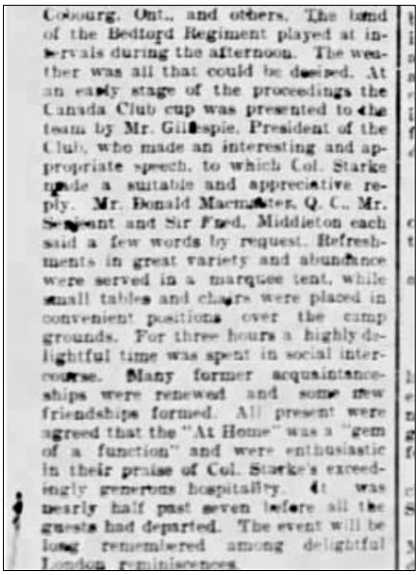
Colonel Starke's "At Home" in the Canadian Camp, Bisley, on Thursday afternoon, was a brilliant function, and was numerously attended by Canadians in London, by officers of the Scots Guards from Pirbright; officers of British Volunteers corps engaged in rifle competition, and others. Among those observed on the ground during the afternoon were Col. W. MacKinnon, Secretary of the National Rifle Association; Lieut. General Hewett, Commandant Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, formerly of the Royal Military College, Kingston; Major General Strange; Major General Sir Fred. Middleton; Major General Herbert; Lt.-Col. Ridout, formerly R. M. C., Kingston; Lt.-Col. Cotton, D. A. G., Kingston; Lt.-Col. Gordon, Royal Canadian Infantry Regiment, Fredericton, N. B.; Major Roy, Brigade Major, Montreal; Lt.-Col. Turnbull, Montreal; Professor Martin, R. M. C., Kingston; Professor Day, R. M. C. Kingston; Lieutenant Governor Dewdney; Attorney General Iberts, B. C.; Major Wicksteed, Ottawa; Mr. Chas. Magee, Ottawa; Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hogg, Ottawa; Mr. Donald Macmaster, Q. C., Montreal; Mr. Charles Drinkwater, Montreal; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Barland, Montreal; Mr. W. A. and Mrs.

294



Barland, Montreal; Mr. W. A. and Mrs. May, London; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Elliot, Toronto; the Misses Merritt, St. Catherines; Miss C. Merritt, Toronto; Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Gibbons, London, Ont.; Capt. Newton, Montreal; Mr. Wyld, President Toronto Board of Trade; Mr. W. T. and Mrs. Lawson, London; Major Bell, Indian Head, N.W.T.; Lt. Col. Turnbull, Montreal; Dr. Thorburn, Ottawa; Mr. C. Berkeley Powell, Ottawa; Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Gundry, London, formerly of Ottawa; Mr. J. B. Melver, Kingston; Mr. L. J. Serjeant, formerly of the Grand Trunk Railway; Dr. Bradley, Ottawa; Dr. Byers, Gananoque; Mr. J. G. and Mrs. Colmer, Mr. Henry Crawford, London; Mr. Frank Arnoldi, Q. C., Toronto; Mr. George Grant, Jamaica; Dr. Lorme and Mrs. Campbell, Montreal; Major VanCourtland, 3rd Hussars, and Mrs. VanCourtland; Mr. Alex. Stephenson, Montreal; Mr. Hilton Green, Montreal; Capt. Forrester, Royal Canadian Dragoons Mr. and Mrs. Joyner, Qu'Appelle, N.W.T.; Mrs. Boswell and the Misses Daintry, Colourg. Ont., and others. The band

321



Colourg. Ont., and others. The band of the Bedford Regiment played at intervals during the afternoon. The weather was all that could be desired. At an early stage of the proceedings the Canada Club cup was presented to the team by Mr. Gillespie, President of the Club, who made an interesting and appropriate speech, to which Col. Starke made a suitable and appreciative reply. Mr. Donald Macmaster, Q. C., Mr. Serjeant and Sir Fred. Middleton each said a few words by request. Refreshments in great variety and abundance were served in a marquee tent, while small tables and chairs were placed in convenient positions over the camp grounds. For three hours a highly delightful time was spent in social intercourse. Many former acquaintanceships were renewed and some new friendships formed. All present were agreed that the "At Home" was a "gem of a function" and were enthusiastic in their praise of Col. Starke's exceedingly generous hospitality. It was nearly half past seven before all the guests had departed. The event will be long remembered among delightful London reminiscences.

292 kb

1896 – Aug. 20 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Wheat cutting began on the Bell Farm on Monday last."

1896 – Aug. 27 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Mr. Osment's fence has been beautified and made an instrument for the enlightenment of the passer-by. The far famed Dick Burden did the deed."

> Fort Qu'Appelle: "Mr. A.J. Osment of Indian Head has brought his steam pleasure launch 'Loretta' from the lower lake , and will make the fort its headquarters for a few days. The removal was made without much difficulty on Monday, the boat being taken out at the Mission bridge, brought up on a trolley and put into the water again at the boat house. It has since made several trips up the lake."

1896 – Sept. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

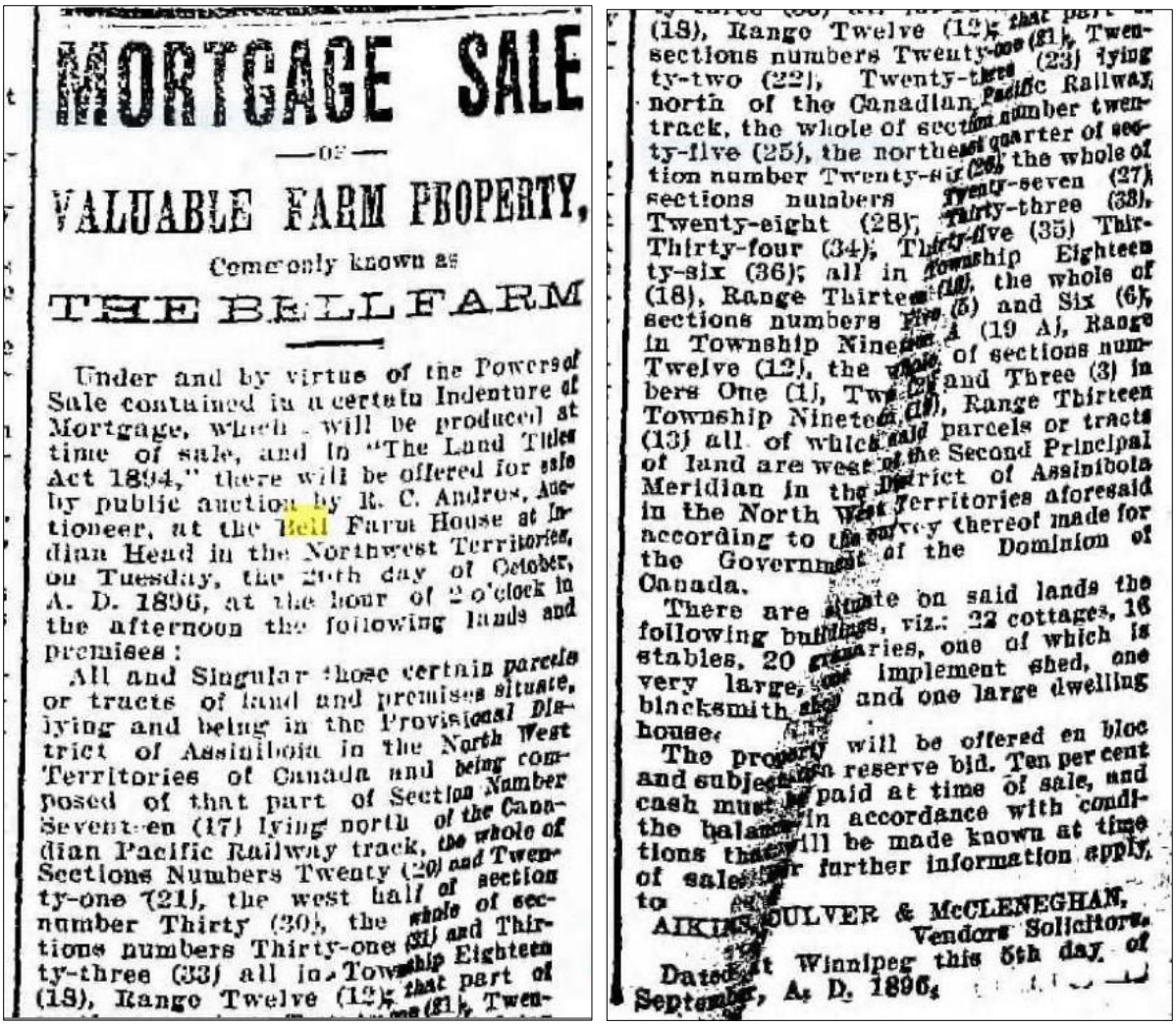
> Fort Qu'Appelle : "Mr. A.J. Osment returned to Indian Head on Thursday evening last. His steam launch was taken back to the lower lakes the same day."

The Vidette (Fort Qu'Appelle & Indian Head)	September 10, 1896		"Mortgage Sale of Valuable Farm Property commonly known as The Bell Farm"

1896 – Sept. 10 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Mortgage Sale of Valuable Farm Property commonly known as The Bell Farm" To take place Oct 20, 1896. Lists the legal descriptions of the land, as well as "22 cottages, 16 stables, 20 granaries (one of which is very large), one implement shed, one blacksmith shop and one large dwelling house." This ad runs for several subsequent weeks.
>
> "Mr. Adam Cantelon of Lorlie, who has been working in this vicinity for the past few weeks, has secured the contract of large stone barn in the neighbourhood of Wolseley, and together with his assistant will depart for that burgh in a few days." (Frank: Cantalon built the Motherwell stone buildings, and is featured in *Legacy of Stone*)

1896 – Sept. 16 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6 – Advertisement for Mortgage Sale of the Bell Farm on 20 Oct. 1896, by Aikins, Culver, McClenaghan (Winnipeg Lawyers)



MORTGAGE SALE

—OF—

VALUABLE FARM PROPERTY,

Commonly known as

THE BELL FARM

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage, which will be produced at time of sale, and in "The Land Titles Act 1894," there will be offered for sale by public auction by R. C. Andros, Auctioneer, at the Bell Farm House at Indian Head in the Northwest Territories, on Tuesday, the 20th day of October, A. D. 1896, at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon the following lands and premises:

All and Singular those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Provisional District of Assiniboia in the North West Territories of Canada and being composed of that part of Section Number Seventeen (17) lying north of the Canadian Pacific Railway track, the whole of Sections Numbers Twenty (20) and Twenty-one (21), the west half of section number Thirty (30), the whole of sections numbers Thirty-one (31) and Thirty-three (33) all in Township Eighteen (18), Range Twelve (12); that part of (18), Range Twelve (12); that part of sections numbers Twenty-one (21), Twenty-two (22), Twenty-three (23) lying north of the Canadian Pacific Railway track, the whole of section number twenty-five (25), the northeast quarter of section number Twenty-six (26), the whole of sections numbers Twenty-seven (27), Twenty-eight (28), Thirty-three (33), Thirty-four (34), Thirty-five (35) Thirty-six (36); all in Township Eighteen (18), Range Thirteen (13), the whole of sections numbers Five (5) and Six (6), in Township Nineteen (19 A), Range Twelve (12), the whole of sections numbers One (1), Two (2) and Three (3) in Township Nineteen (19), Range Thirteen (13) all of which said parcels or tracts of land are west of the Second Principal Meridian in the District of Assiniboia in the North West Territories aforesaid according to the survey thereof made for the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

There are situate on said lands the following buildings, viz.: 22 cottages, 16 stables, 20 granaries, one of which is very large, one implement shed, one blacksmith shop and one large dwelling house.

The property will be offered en bloc and subject to a reserve bid. Ten per cent cash must be paid at time of sale, and the balance in accordance with conditions that will be made known at time of sale. For further information apply to

AIKINS, CULVER & McCLENEGHAN,
Vendors Solicitors.

Dated at Winnipeg this 5th day of September, A. D. 1896.

1896- Sept. 17 – *Regina Evening Leader* – p. 8, col. 4 – Sheriff's Sale of Bell Farm

"The Bell farm at Indian Head will be put up for sale by the sheriff on Oct. 20."

1896 – Sept. 18 – *Moose Jaw Times* , p.8 – Auction of Bell Farm set for Oct. 20

"The Bell Farm at Indian Head will be sold by public auction on the 20th of October."

1896 – Sept. 24 - *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 4 – sale of Bell Farm's grain elevator

"R.P. Roblin, of Winnipeg, has bought the Balgonie elevator and also the Bell elevator at Indian Head. Things look as if the grain men are anxious to secure our western wheat this year. There are no less than four or five buyers in each district."

1896 – Oct. 8 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

"Mr. A.J. Osment is burning another kiln of brick."

Also, "We are informed that Mr. Roblin has only rented the Bell elevator, not bought it."

1896 – Oct. 22 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

ad for bricks by Osment. – check for details

1896 – Nov. 5 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette,* p. __

"Work has commenced on the excavation of a cellar for a large brick hotel, which Mr. Osment intends building in the spring on the property adjoining his store. The building is to be of solid brick, 50 by 80, and three stories high. This is not the slightest doubt but that is will be another great improvement to the town."

The Vidette ???	Nov. 19, 1896		"Local News: Indian Head" – refers to Bell in far left column

1896 – Nov. 19 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

[A longish report about Major Bell's marksmanship at an event in England. Includes much about various female participants.] – check for details

1896 – Dec. 3 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

"Mr. A.J. Osment's brick yard turned out some 400,000 bricks this season, quantities of which were sent to Grenfell and Qu'Appelle Station. Mr. Osment has enough on hand to start on his new hotel building next spring."

1896 – Dec. 17 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – check for details

1896 – Dec 24 – *Regina Evening Leader*, p. 8 – Brassey & Bell farms open for purchase

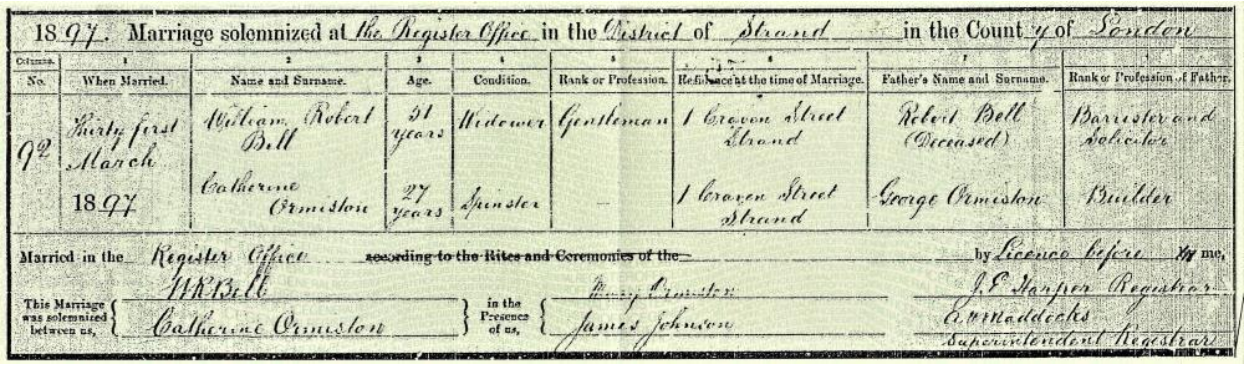
> "The Brassey and Bell Farms at Indian Head are now thrown open for purchase and settlement in small holdings, whereat the citizens of the town and country generally are well pleased."

1897

1897 – Henderson's Manitoba and NWT Gazetteer and Directory, p. 391 – Major Bell is still listed in Henderson's:

> "INDIAN HEAD: Bell, W.R. , Bell farm"

1897 – March 31 – Major Bell marries Catherine Ormiston from Newcastle-on-Tyne, England (copy, not original)



18 97. Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the District of Strand in the County of London

Columns. No.	1 When Married.	2 Name and Surname.	3 Age.	4 Condition.	5 Rank or Profession.	6 Residence at the time of Marriage.	7 Father's Name and Surname.	8 Rank or Profession of Father.
92	Thirty first March 18 97	William Robert Bell	31 years	Widower	Gentleman	1 Craven Street Strand	Robert Bell (Deceased)	Barrister and Solicitor
		Catherine Ormiston	27 years	Spinster	–	1 Craven Street Strand	George Ormiston	Builder

Married in the Register Office ~~according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the~~ by Licence before me, J.F. Harper Registrar.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, W.R. Bell / Catherine Ormiston in the Presence of us, Catherine Ormiston / James Johnson

E. Maddocks Superintendent Registrar

431 kb

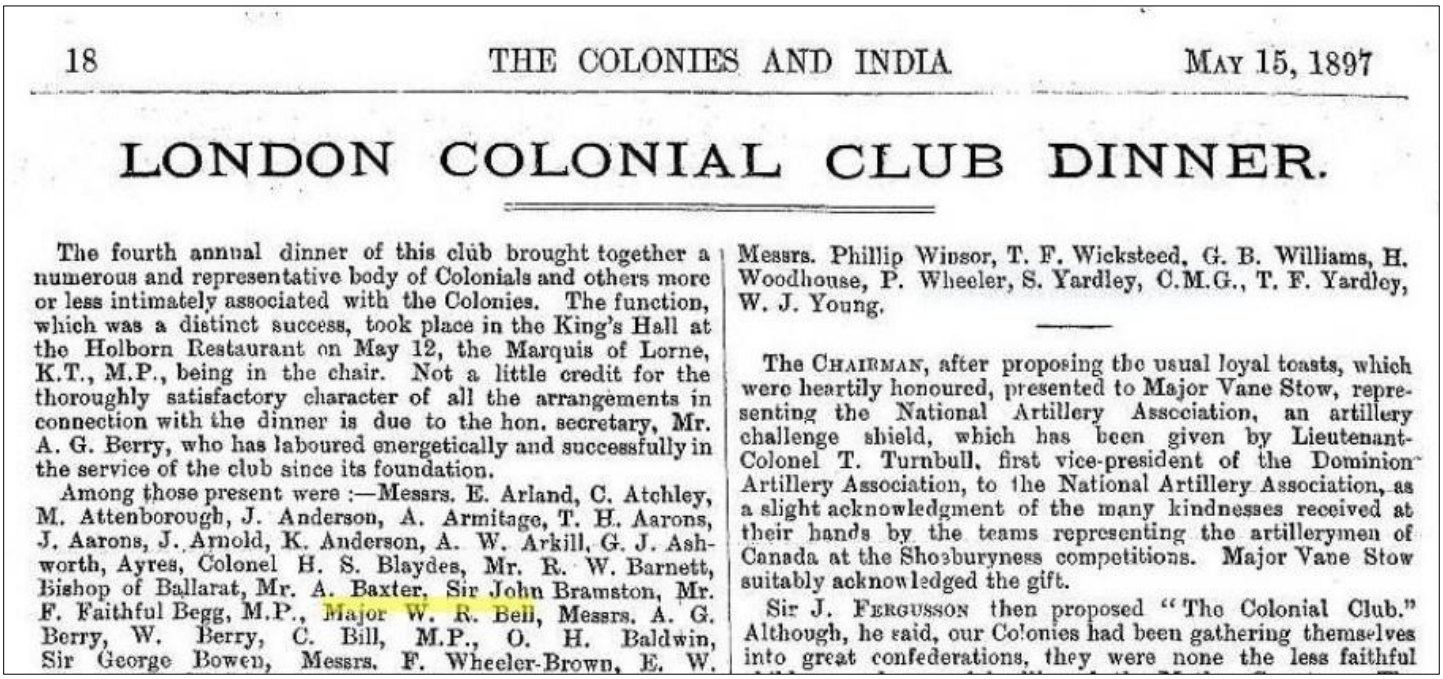
[FRANK: They eventually move to Brockville and then on to Winnipeg – (Source: *Winnipeg Free Press* - Feb 13, 1902)]

1897 – March 31 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – check for details

1897 – May 6 – *Qu'Appelle Progress*, p. 1

> "The Bell Farm lost a stable by fire while burning stubble."

1897 – May 15 – *The Colonies and India*, p. 18 - "London Colonial Club Dinner" Major W.R. Bell attended



18 THE COLONIES AND INDIA MAY 15, 1897

LONDON COLONIAL CLUB DINNER.

The fourth annual dinner of this club brought together a numerous and representative body of Colonials and others more or less intimately associated with the Colonies. The function, which was a distinct success, took place in the King's Hall at the Holborn Restaurant on May 12, the Marquis of Lorne, K.T., M.P., being in the chair. Not a little credit for the thoroughly satisfactory character of all the arrangements in connection with the dinner is due to the hon. secretary, Mr. A. G. Berry, who has laboured energetically and successfully in the service of the club since its foundation.

Among those present were :—Messrs. E. Arland, C. Atchley, M. Attenborough, J. Anderson, A. Armitage, T. H. Aarons, J. Aarons, J. Arnold, K. Anderson, A. W. Arkill, G. J. Ashworth, Ayres, Colonel H. S. Blaydes, Mr. R. W. Barnett, Bishop of Ballarat, Mr. A. Baxter, Sir John Bramston, Mr. F. Faithful Begg, M.P., Major W. R. Bell, Messrs. A. G. Berry, W. Berry, C. Bill, M.P., O. H. Baldwin, Sir George Bowen, Messrs. F. Wheeler-Brown, E. W. Messrs. Phillip Winsor, T. F. Wicksteed, G. B. Williams, H. Woodhouse, P. Wheeler, S. Yardley, C.M.G., T. F. Yardley, W. J. Young.

The CHAIRMAN, after proposing the usual loyal toasts, which were heartily honoured, presented to Major Vane Stow, representing the National Artillery Association, an artillery challenge shield, which has been given by Lieutenant-Colonel T. Turnbull, first vice-president of the Dominion Artillery Association, to the National Artillery Association, as a slight acknowledgment of the many kindnesses received at their hands by the teams representing the artillerymen of Canada at the Shoeburyness competitions. Major Vane Stow suitably acknowledged the gift.

Sir J. FERGUSSON then proposed "The Colonial Club." Although, he said, our Colonies had been gathering themselves into great confederations, they were none the less faithful

201 kb

1897 – May 19 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __ – check for details

1897 - May 26 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "The Brassey Farm has 1700 acres of wheat and the Bell Farm 1,400 this year notwithstanding that some of cultivated portions of the latter were among the lands disposed of this winter."

1897 - June 2 – *Qu'Appelle Vidette* , p. __

> "Mr. George Thompson has purchased the half of 26, known as Major Bell's corral."

1897 - June 4 – Professor Tanner dies at Exeter, England

> (Source: Henry Tanner biography, by Antony Chapman, England – 2017)

1897 – June 17 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 4 – Bell vs Ford Jones in court

> "WEST ASSINIBOIA COURT - The Last of the Bell Farm - Supreme court for West Assiniboia opened this morning before Judge Richardson . . . . Mr. Ford Jones asked for an order that an agreement entered into by Major W.R. Bell for the purchase of lands at Indian Head be declared void and cancelled, for non-payment of the instalments, and the moneys already paid be forfeited . Granted."

1897 - June 22 – *Toronto Daily Mail and Empire* , p. 3, col. 1 – Major Bell at Islington, England

Major Bell attended the Royal Military Tournament at Islington to watch the 48th Highlanders compete. "The immense audience cheered again and again. Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, witnessed the combat, and many other Canadians."

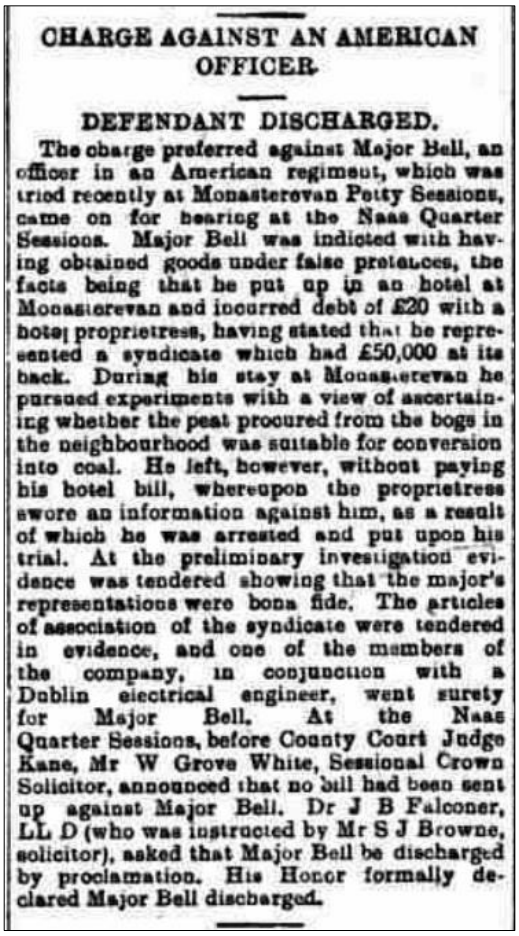
http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=36&dat=18970622&id=DkQ1AAAAIBAJ&sjid=1ygDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6216,6039016

1897 – June 30 - *Qu'Appelle Videtteé* – check for details

1898

[Brassey bought much of the land sold at the dissolution of Bell' corporate farm. Feb 2, 1898 (or possibly Jan 26): Legal description of land sold in 1897 from Brassey estate. Includes buyers' names.]

1898 – Jan. 8 – *The Irish Daily Independent*, p. _ - Charges against "Major W.R. Bell" - peat fuel [NOTE: This appears to be an American military major by the same name] – check for details



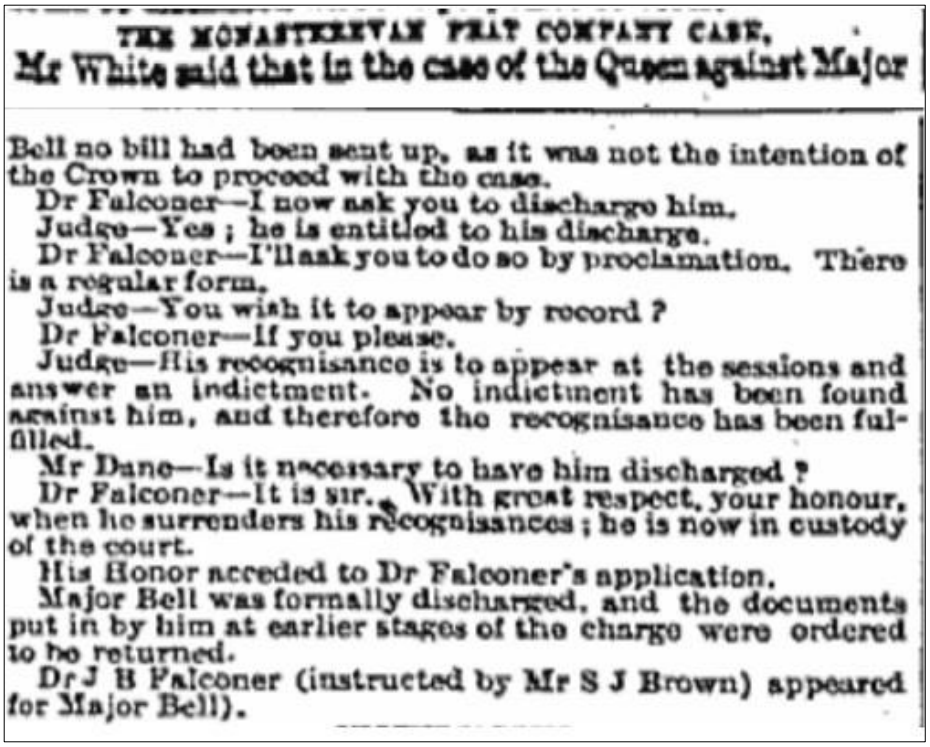
CHARGE AGAINST AN AMERICAN OFFICER.

DEFENDANT DISCHARGED.

The charge preferred against Major Bell, an officer in an American regiment, which was tried recently at Monasterevan Petty Sessions, came on for hearing at the Naas Quarter Sessions. Major Bell was indicted with having obtained goods under false pretences, the facts being that he put up in an hotel at Monasterevan and incurred debt of £20 with a hotel proprietress, having stated that he represented a syndicate which had £50,000 at its back. During his stay at Monasterevan he pursued experiments with a view of ascertaining whether the peat procured from the bogs in the neighbourhood was suitable for conversion into coal. He left, however, without paying his hotel bill, whereupon the proprietress swore an information against him, as a result of which he was arrested and put upon his trial. At the preliminary investigation evidence was tendered showing that the major's representations were bona fide. The articles of association of the syndicate were tendered in evidence, and one of the members of the company, in conjunction with a Dublin electrical engineer, went surety for Major Bell. At the Naas Quarter Sessions, before County Court Judge Kane, Mr W Grove White, Sessional Crown Solicitor, announced that no bill had been sent up against Major Bell. Dr J B Falconer, LL D (who was instructed by Mr S J Browne, solicitor), asked that Major Bell be discharged by proclamation. His Honor formally declared Major Bell discharged.

151 kb

1898 – Jan. 8 – *Kildare Observer*, p. _ -- Major Bell in court - peat fuel [NOTE: This appears to be an American military major by the same name] – check for details



THE MONASTEREVAN PEAT COMPANY CASE.

Mr White said that in the case of the Queen against Major Bell no bill had been sent up, as it was not the intention of the Crown to proceed with the case.

Dr Falconer—I now ask you to discharge him.

Judge—Yes; he is entitled to his discharge.

Dr Falconer—I'll ask you to do so by proclamation. There is a regular form.

Judge—You wish it to appear by record?

Dr Falconer—If you please.

Judge—His recognisance is to appear at the sessions and answer an indictment. No indictment has been found against him, and therefore the recognisance has been fulfilled.

Mr Dane—Is it necessary to have him discharged?

Dr Falconer—It is sir. With great respect, your honour, when he surrenders his recognisances; he is now in custody of the court.

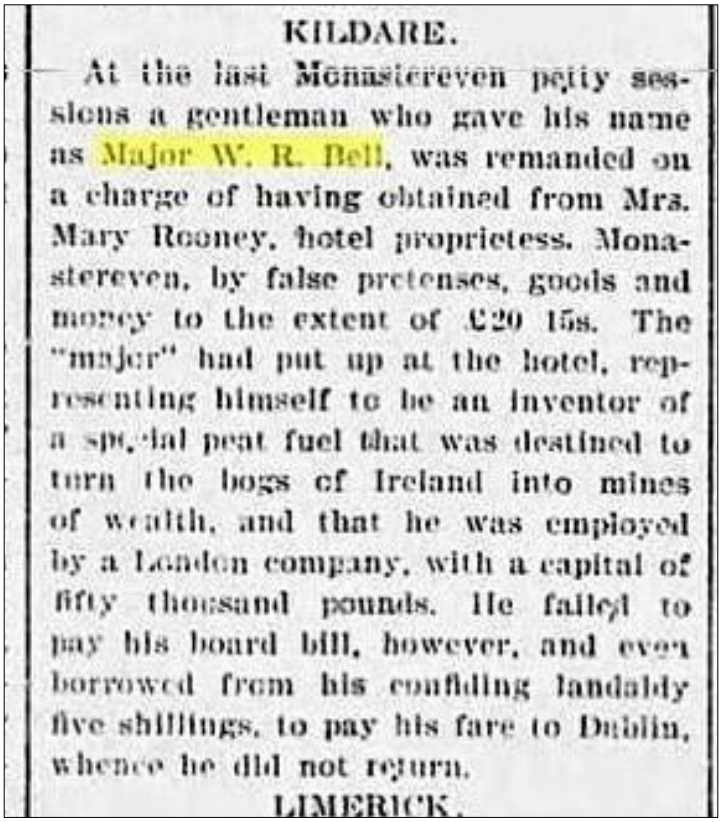
His Honor acceded to Dr Falconer's application.

Major Bell was formally discharged, and the documents put in by him at earlier stages of the charge were ordered to be returned.

Dr J B Falconer (instructed by Mr S J Brown) appeared for Major Bell).

99 kb

1898 – Jan. 15 – *The Irish Standard*, p. 3 – Major Bell in court – peat fuel [NOTE: This appears to be an American military major by the same name] – check for details



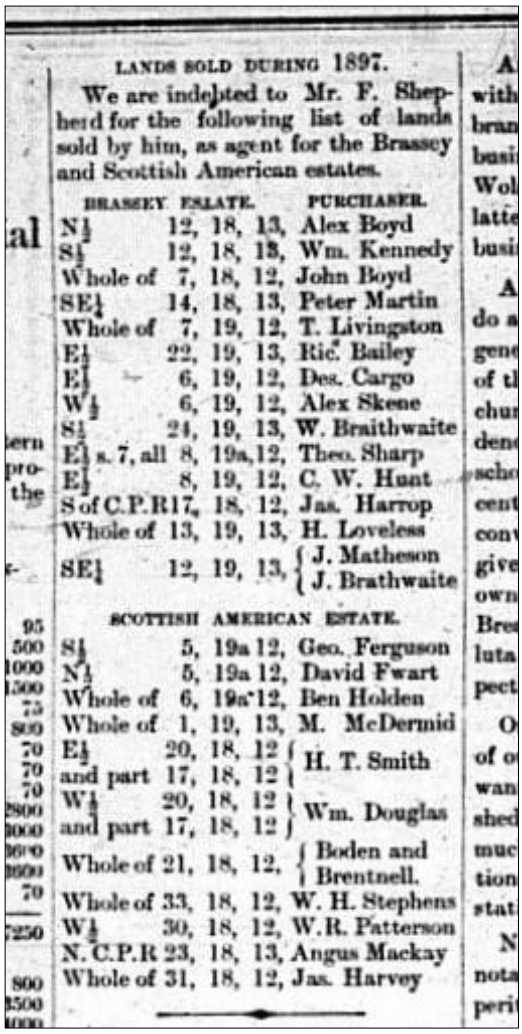
KILDARE.

At the last Monastereven petty sessions a gentleman who gave his name as Major W. R. Bell, was remanded on a charge of having obtained from Mrs. Mary Rooney, hotel proprietess, Monastereven, by false pretenses, goods and money to the extent of £20 15s. The "major" had put up at the hotel, representing himself to be an inventor of a special peat fuel that was destined to turn the bogs of Ireland into mines of wealth, and that he was employed by a London company, with a capital of fifty thousand pounds. He failed to pay his board bill, however, and even borrowed from his confiding landlady five shillings, to pay his fare to Dublin, whence he did not return.

LIMERICK.

88 kb

1898 – Jan. 26 - *Qu'Appelle Vidette* – list of lands that were formerly part of the Bell Farm, and later part of the Brassey Estate and Scottish-American Estate. (see map below in 1902 section for some of the land locations)



LANDS SOLD DURING 1897.

We are indebted to Mr. F. Shepherd for the following list of lands sold by him, as agent for the Brassey and Scottish American estates.

BRASSEY ESTATE.				PURCHASER.
N½	12,	18,	13,	Alex Boyd
S½	12,	18,	13,	Wm. Kennedy
Whole of	7,	18,	12,	John Boyd
SE¼	14,	18,	13,	Peter Martin
Whole of	7,	19,	12,	T. Livingston
E½	22,	19,	13,	Ric. Bailey
E½	6,	19,	12,	Des. Cargo
W½	6,	19,	12,	Alex Skene
S½	24,	19,	13,	W. Braithwaite
E½ s. 7, all	8,	19a,	12,	Theo. Sharp
E½	8,	19,	12,	C. W. Hunt
S of C.P.R	17,	18,	12,	Jas. Harrop
Whole of	13,	19,	13,	H. Loveless
SE¼	12,	19,	13,	J. Matheson / J. Brathwaite

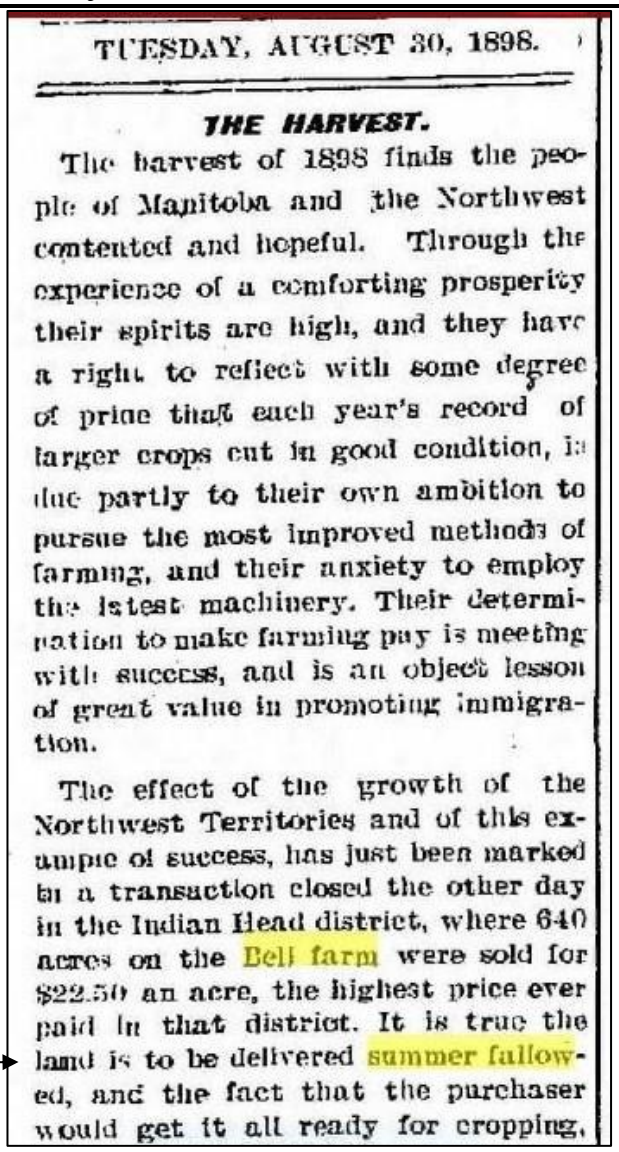
SCOTTISH AMERICAN ESTATE.				
S½	5,	19a	12,	Geo. Ferguson
N½	5,	19a	12,	David Fwart
Whole of	6,	19a	12,	Ben Holden
Whole of	1,	19,	13,	M. McDermid
E½	20,	18,	12	H. T. Smith
and part	17,	18,	12	
W½	20,	18,	12	Wm. Douglas
and part	17,	18,	12	
Whole of	21,	18,	12,	Boden and Brentnell.
Whole of	33,	18,	12,	W. H. Stephens
W½	30,	18,	12,	W.R. Patterson
N. C.P.R	23,	18,	13,	Angus Mackay
Whole of	31,	18,	12,	Jas. Harvey

1898 – July – Creation of General Service Medals:

The Canadian Militia's General Order 63 calls for creation of General Service Medals to include the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870 and the Red River Expedition of 1870. (EFK - Major Bell is eligible to apply for the Fenian Raid medals.)

Source: Sessional Papers, 1899, No. 19, p. 29

1898 – Aug. 30 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Benefits of summer fallowing at the Bell Farm



TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1898.

THE HARVEST.

The harvest of 1898 finds the people of Manitoba and the Northwest contented and hopeful. Through the experience of a comforting prosperity their spirits are high, and they have a right to reflect with some degree of pride that each year's record of larger crops cut in good condition, is due partly to their own ambition to pursue the most improved methods of farming, and their anxiety to employ the latest machinery. Their determination to make farming pay is meeting with success, and is an object lesson of great value in promoting immigration.

The effect of the growth of the Northwest Territories and of this example of success, has just been marked by a transaction closed the other day in the Indian Head district, where 640 acres on the Bell farm were sold for $22.50 an acre, the highest price ever paid in that district. It is true the land is to be delivered summer fallowed, and the fact that the purchaser would get it all ready for cropping, must be taken into account. The purchaser is a farmer in the locality, and nothing could better illustrate the feeling of permanency and hopefulness in the Territories than his investment in adjoining land on this scale, and there are many farmers throughout the country who are adding to their land by purchase, to some extent, every year. This farmer pays for the section $14,400. Suppose that he gets an average of twenty-five bushels of wheat per acre, which brings seventy cents per bushel, he would receive $11,200 in one season, and could go on repeating the operation.

In the Indian Head district, at the present moment, the average crop of wheat on summer fallowed land, is twenty-eight bushels to the acre, and on stubble, twenty-three bushels. Summer fallowing is evidently a paying method, and contains in a single phrase perhaps the most valuable advice that can be given the owners of wheat fields on the west.

Part 1 of 2 119 kb Part 2 of 2: 103 kb summer fallow

1898 – Oct. 7 – *Moose Jaw Times*, p. 4 – Search for Stray Animals by George Philips

"**NOTICE OF LOST ANIMALS.**

$10 Reward. Strayed from Indian Head. August 11th 1897, one dark sorrel horse pony, white face. 2 white hind legs, branded monogram HR on left shoulder, had leather halter on with piece of rope attached; and one light sorrel pony mare, white face, 3 white legs, white spot on left side, branded monogram HR on left shoulder, had leather halter on with piece of rope attached, expected to have foal at foot. Geo. Philips. Indian Head. Bell Farm."

1899

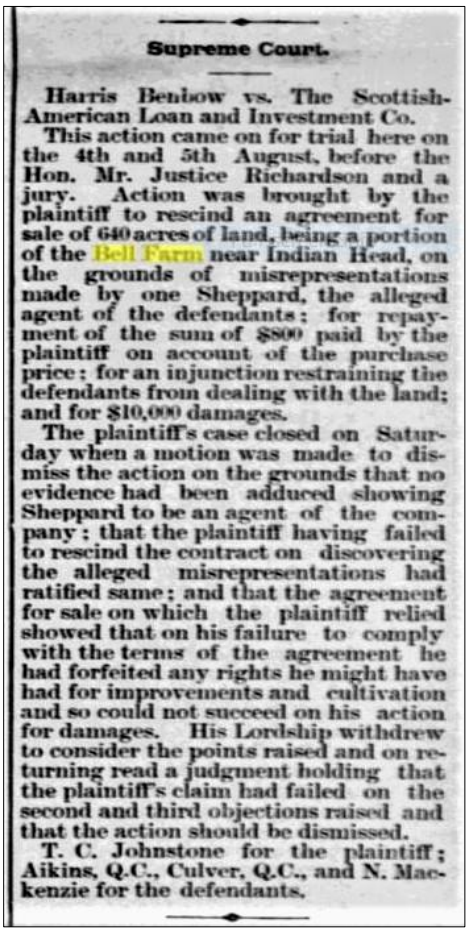
1899 – According to the 1901 Census:

> [The Bell family moved from Ireland back to Canada, resident in Brockville at time of the Census. Family: William & Catherine, and daughter Nora, who was born in April, 1899 in Ireland. (EFK comment: The 1906 census states they returned to Canada in 1900. As the 1901 census was much closer to the time of the move, I presume that the 1899 date is more likely to be correct.]

1899 – January - Government of Canada issues medals for Fenian Raids.

> "The medal was authorized in January 1899, 29 years after the last event it commemorated."
>
> (Source: Canadian General Services Medal – Veterans Affairs Canada: http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations/details/1

1899 – Aug. 10 – *Regina Leader,* p. 1 – Court Case: Sale of Bell farm lands: Benbow vs Scottish Syndicate – Benbow lost.



Supreme Court.

Harris Benbow vs. The Scottish-American Loan and Investment Co.

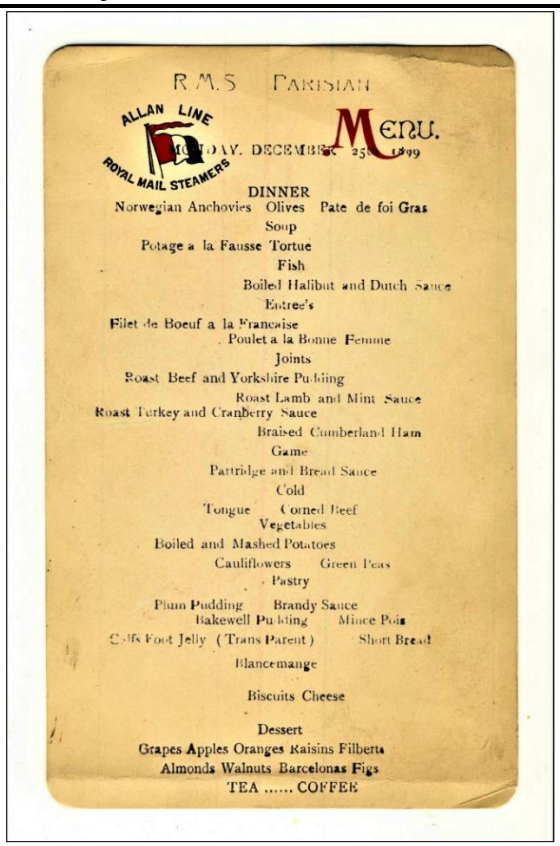
This action came on for trial here on the 4th and 5th August, before the Hon. Mr. Justice Richardson and a jury. Action was brought by the plaintiff to rescind an agreement for sale of 640 acres of land, being a portion of the Bell Farm near Indian Head, on the grounds of misrepresentations made by one Sheppard, the alleged agent of the defendants; for repayment of the sum of $800 paid by the plaintiff on account of the purchase price; for an injunction restraining the defendants from dealing with the land; and for $10,000 damages.

The plaintiff's case closed on Saturday when a motion was made to dismiss the action on the grounds that no evidence had been adduced showing Sheppard to be an agent of the company; that the plaintiff having failed to rescind the contract on discovering the alleged misrepresentations had ratified same; and that the agreement for sale on which the plaintiff relied showed that on his failure to comply with the terms of the agreement he had forfeited any rights he might have had for improvements and cultivation and so could not succeed on his action for damages. His Lordship withdrew to consider the points raised and on returning read a judgment holding that the plaintiff's claim had failed on the second and third objections raised and that the action should be dismissed.

T. C. Johnstone for the plaintiff; Aikins, Q.C., Culver, Q.C., and N. Mackenzie for the defendants.

134 kb

1899 – Dec. 25 – Dinner Menu from the Royal Mail Steamer *PARISIAN* – from the Bell Family Collection – [probable verification that Major Bell was on board on a journey across the Atlantic (Source: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan: Bell Family Collection]



R.M.S. PARISIAN

ALLAN LINE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS

MONDAY. DECEMBER 25th 1899 MENU.

DINNER

Norwegian Anchovies Olives Pate de foi Gras

Soup

Potage a la Fausse Tortue

Fish

Boiled Halibut and Dutch Sauce

Entree's

Filet de Boeuf a la Francaise

Poulet a la Bonne Femme

Joints

Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

Roast Lamb and Mint Sauce

Roast Turkey and Cranberry Sauce

Braised Cumberland Ham

Game

Partridge and Bread Sauce

Cold

Tongue Corned Beef

Vegetables

Boiled and Mashed Potatoes

Cauliflowers Green Peas

Pastry

Plum Pudding Brandy Sauce

Bakewell Pudding Mince Pois

Calfs Foot Jelly (Trans Parent) Short Bread

Blancemange

Biscuits Cheese

Dessert

Grapes Apples Oranges Raisins Filberts

Almonds Walnuts Barcelonas Figs

TEA ..... COFFEE

532 kb 463 kb

(Left) Menu card for the December 1899 trip; and (Right) Major Bell on board a ship - perhaps the *Parisian* for the Dec. 25, 1899 dinner

1900

1900 – Jan. 9 – *Ottawa Citizen* – Major Bell in Ottawa

"Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, is town staying at the Russell"

1900 – Feb. 8 – *Regina Leader,* p. 1 – Major Bell back in Indian Head

"INDIAN HEAD: Major Bell, formerly connected with the Bell farm here, renewed old acquaintances in town last week."

1900 – Feb. 8 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Bell back in Canada and in Regina

"Major Bell, formerly owner of the Bell farm at Indian Head, and who has resided for some time past in England, has returned to Canada and was in Regina on Saturday last. The Major may again take up residence at Indian Head."

1900 – April 26 – *Lethbridge News* , p. 8 – Major Bell in Lethbridge visiting E.T. Galt.

"Major Bell, of Indian Head, is a guest of Mr. E.T. Galt. While here he will visit the irrigation ditches and look over the country."

1900 – May 3 - *Calgary Herald* - Bell involved with North West Irrigation Company

"Major Bell, the late manager of the well known mammoth farm at Indian Head, which is now divided into small holdings, has transferred the scene of his operations to Alberta. He has taken hold of an irrigated farm of 3000 acres on the big canal of the North West Irrigation company."

[Michelle's Note: The *Calgary Herald* report is likely speculation - Major Bell was friendly with Elliott Torrance Galt (son of Sir A.T. Galt) of the North West Irrigation Co. and probably just visiting... perhaps with the next venture in mind!]

1900 – May 9 – The Nor'West Farmer – Bell and Lord Roberts sail on same ship

"The supplement issued with the Jan. 5th issue of the Farmer is pronounced by Major Bell (of the Bell Farm) as being the best likeness he ever saw of Lord Roberts. He knows the Commander-in-Chief well and stood beside him when Lord Kitchener and he embarked."

1900 – May 11 – *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 7 – Major Bell visits with E.T. Galt in Lethbridge.

"**LETHBRIDGE** – Major Bell, of the Bell Farm, was in town last week, the guest of Mr. E.T. Galt."

1900 – July 19 – Qu'Appelle Progress, p. 5 – Osment to start brickmaking

"**LEBRET** – Mr. A.J. Osment came out from Indian Head on Monday. Mr. Osment intends starting operations in his brickyard this week."

1900 – Aug. 22 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Mr. Kaufhold to Abaco to inspect forest

"Major Bell of Canada who was a passenger by the *Saratoga* which arrived from New York on Monday sailed in the schooner Admiral yesterday afternoon to visit Abaco. We understand that his intention is to see the pine forests of that island with the view of ascertaining information which, if satisfactory, may lead to the establishing of an important industry in the Colony. Major Bell is accompanied by Mr. A.J. Kaufhold."

1900 – Aug. 29 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and associates to inspect forests on Andros Island

> "Major Bell and his party returned from Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, by the schooner Admiral on Sunday afternoon and again sailed yesterday morning for Andros to inspect the pine forests of that island."

1900 – Oct. 31 – *Nassau- Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell on board the SANTIAGO

> "On Monday in the steamship Santiago from New York, Miss Vernon, ... Major Bell . . . . . R. Bowie, ... and E.R. Bowling."

1900 – Nov 10. – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell, from Marsh Harbour, on ALBERTINE ADOUE

> "This morning in the schooner Albertine Adoue from Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, Mrs Pinder, Miss Albury, Mr Sands and family; Marsh Harbour, Major Bell; Cherokee Sound, Messrs. John Bethel, Moses W. Sawyer and Percy E. Lowe."

1900 – Nov. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and R. Bowie on SARATOGA for New York-Canada

> "We understand that Major Bell has concluded an arrangement with the Government and that it is probable that the felling of timber at Abaco will commence at an early date.
>
> Major Bell sailed yesterday for Canada via New York on the s.s. *Saratoga* accompanied by Mr. R. Bowie."

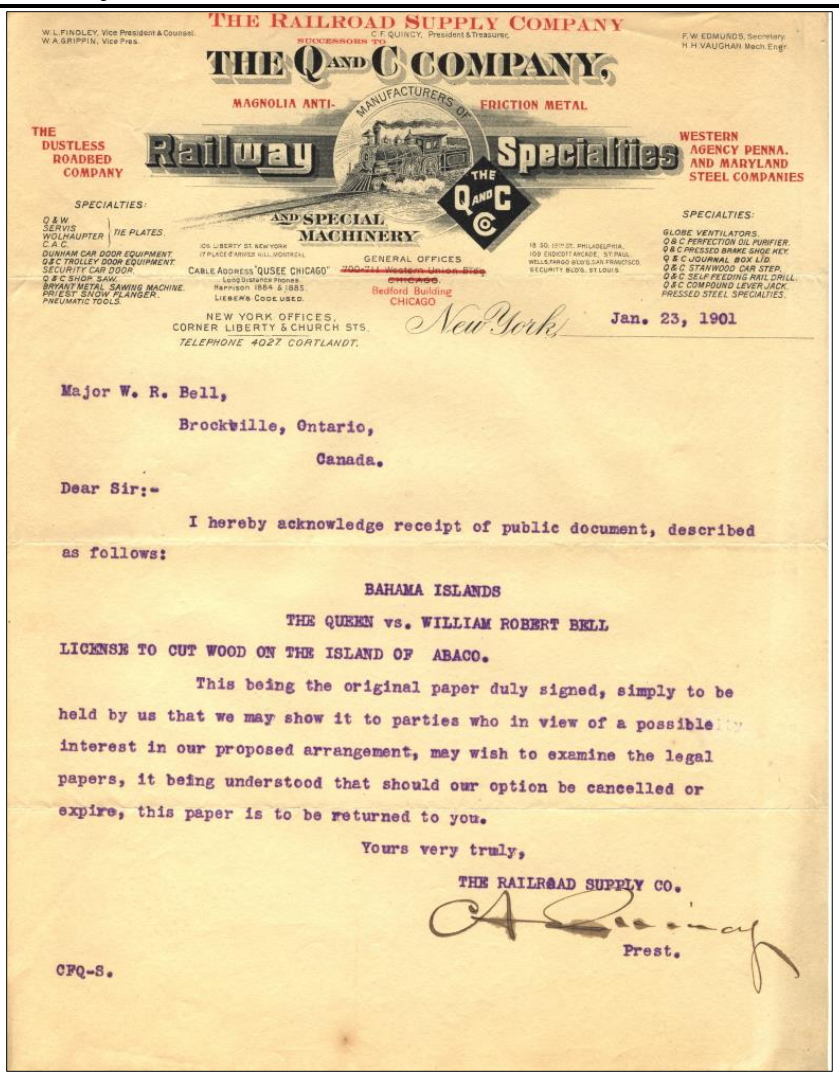
1900 – Nov. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell, Bowling and Bowie on SANTIAGO for New York

> "PASSENGER SAILED. On Sunday morning in the sch. Signal for the Bight, San, Salvador, Mr. C.J. Moore.
>
> Yesterday in the s.s. "Santiago" for New York, Major Bell, Mr. E.R. Bowling and Mr. R. Bowie."

1901

1901 – Jan. 22 – Death of Queen Victoria

1901 – Jan. 23 – Letter from C.F. Quincy, President of The Q & C Company, New York – Major Bell's timber cutting rights at Abaco Island, Bahamas



THE RAILROAD SUPPLY COMPANY
SUCCESSORS TO
THE Q AND C COMPANY,
MANUFACTURERS OF
Railway Specialties AND SPECIAL MACHINERY
THE Q AND C
MAGNOLIA ANTI-FRICTION METAL
THE DUSTLESS ROADBED COMPANY
WESTERN AGENCY PENNA. AND MARYLAND STEEL COMPANIES
W. L. FINDLEY, Vice President & Counsel. W. A. GRIFFIN, Vice Pres. C. F. QUINCY, President & Treasurer. F. W. EDMUNDS, Secretary. H. H. VAUGHAN, Mech. Engr.
SPECIALTIES: Q & W SERVIS WOLHAUPTER TIE PLATES. C.A.C. DUNHAM CAR DOOR EQUIPMENT. Q & C TROLLEY DOOR EQUIPMENT. SECURITY CAR DOOR. Q & C SHOP SAW. BRYANT METAL SAWING MACHINE. PRIEST SNOW FLANGER. PNEUMATIC TOOLS.
SPECIALTIES: GLOBE VENTILATORS. Q & C PERFECTION OIL PURIFIER. Q & C PRESSED BRAKE SHOE KEY. Q & C JOURNAL BOX LID. Q & C STANWOOD CAR STEP. Q & C SELF FEEDING RAIL DRILL. Q & C COMPOUND LEVER JACK. PRESSED STEEL SPECIALTIES.
105 LIBERTY ST. NEW YORK. 17 PLACE D'ARMES HILL, MONTREAL. 18 SO. 15TH ST. PHILADELPHIA. 109 EXCHOTT ARCADE, ST. PAUL. WELLS FARGO BLDG. SAN FRANCISCO. SECURITY BLDG. ST. LOUIS.
GENERAL OFFICES
CABLE ADDRESS "QUSEE CHICAGO" Long Distance Phones Harrison 1864 & 1885. LIEBER'S CODE USED.
~~700-711 Western Union Bldg. CHICAGO.~~ Bedford Building CHICAGO
NEW YORK OFFICES, CORNER LIBERTY & CHURCH STS. TELEPHONE 4027 CORTLANDT.

New York, Jan. 23, 1901

Major W. R. Bell,
Brockville, Ontario,
Canada.

Dear Sir:-

I hereby acknowledge receipt of public document, described as follows:

BAHAMA ISLANDS
THE QUEEN vs. WILLIAM ROBERT BELL
LICENSE TO CUT WOOD ON THE ISLAND OF ABACO.

This being the original paper duly signed, simply to be held by us that we may show it to parties who in view of a possible interest in our proposed arrangement, may wish to examine the legal papers, it being understood that should our option be cancelled or expire, this paper is to be returned to you.

Yours very truly,
THE RAILROAD SUPPLY CO.
Prest.

CFQ-S.

1901 – Feb. 6 – *Nassau Guardian*, p. 2 – Nassau-Bahamas etc. – Major Bell and Bell Farm investor Jules Burwell visit Abaco

> "Just arrived – Major Bell who I need hardly say is welcome. He is accompanied by Mr. J.H. Burwell of Chicago, Ill. These gentlemen are visiting us in connection with the prospective Lumber Industry of Abaco.
>
> RUSTICUS, Cherokee Sound, Abaco"
>
> [Michelle's Note : I noticed that Burwell accompanied Major Bell to the Bahamas but appears not to have invested in the Abaco lease.]

1901 – Census – Major Bell, Catherine, and Nora living in Brockville, Ontario

1901 – Move from Brockville to Winnipeg

> Major and Catherine Bell and family move from Brockville to Winnipeg, after the 1901 Census places them in Brockville. They buy and move into the Daniel McMillan House, at 147 Carlton Street, who moved to Government House after his appointment as Manitoba's new Lieut. Governor. The Bell family owned the house until 1928.

Note: there is no entry for W.R. Bell in 1901 Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg; 147 Carlton listed as VACANT (page numbers missing from book)

1901 – April 11 – *Regina Leader,* p. 8 – John Matere, Bell Farm employee arrested

"A man giving the name of John Matere, an employee on the Bell Farm, has been arrested at Indian Head by town constable Sample, who caught him in the act of stealing goods from Crawford's store. A search of Matere's premises revealed the fact that he had been engaged in the practice for some time, notwithstanding he had some $400 to his credit in the bank."

1901 – May 8 – *Nelson Daily Miner*, p. 1 – Major Bell acquires lease to Abaco Island, Bahamas.

"**IN FOR A FORTUNE.** Belleville (sic)Man Secures Valuable Concession From British Government. (**Special to the Miner)** Winnipeg, May 7 – Major Bell, of Brockville (sic), Ont., and of Bell Farm Indian Head, N.W.T. celebrity, is reported by a gentleman from New York to have acquired a source of immense wealth in the Bahama islands. His fortune has come to him in the form of a long lease which he has been granted on very favourable terms by the British government of the whole of the island of Abaco, one of the largest of the Bahama group, for the purpose of cutting timber."

1901 – May 14 – *Calgary Herald*, p. 5 – Major Bell lumber project in Bahamas

"Major Bell, of Indian Head fame, is said to have recently acquired an island in the Bahama group, which is thickly covered with timber, from the British government, on such terms as to practically mean the making of a large fortune. The gallant Major who was a general favourite throughout the west seems to have struck it right after a number of years of hard luck at wheat farming."

1901 – Aug. 7 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell arrives from New York on SANTIAGO for visit to Abaco

"Major Bell was a passenger by the s.s. *Santiago* which arrived from New York on Monday. He will visit Abaco in connection with the timber business which we understand will be started there very soon."

1901 – Aug. 10 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell and Mr. Barry travel to Abaco

"**SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.** The Am. steam tug "Biscayne," Fazzard master, from Jacksonville, called here yesterday morning on her way to Abaco. Mr. Barry who is on her, will join Major Bell, he having sailed from Nassau on Wednesday afternoon last on business in connection with the proposed timber interest. She sailed for Abaco last night."

1901 – Aug. 21 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Major Bell sails on SANTIAGO to New York

"**PASSENGERS SAILED**. Yesterday in the s.s. "Santiago" for New York Mr and Mrs E.H. Curry . . . . . Major Bell, ...Lewis Taylor."

1901 – Sept. 11 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Rusticus on Major Bell's lumber business plans

"As for ourselves, we expect soon to be doing a humming business somewhere near Spencer's Point. If our Major Bell succeeds in forming his lumber company, we will soon be hearing the sweet music of a buzz saw.

Weather red hot and still heating.

RUSTICUS Cherokee Sound, 31st August, 1901."

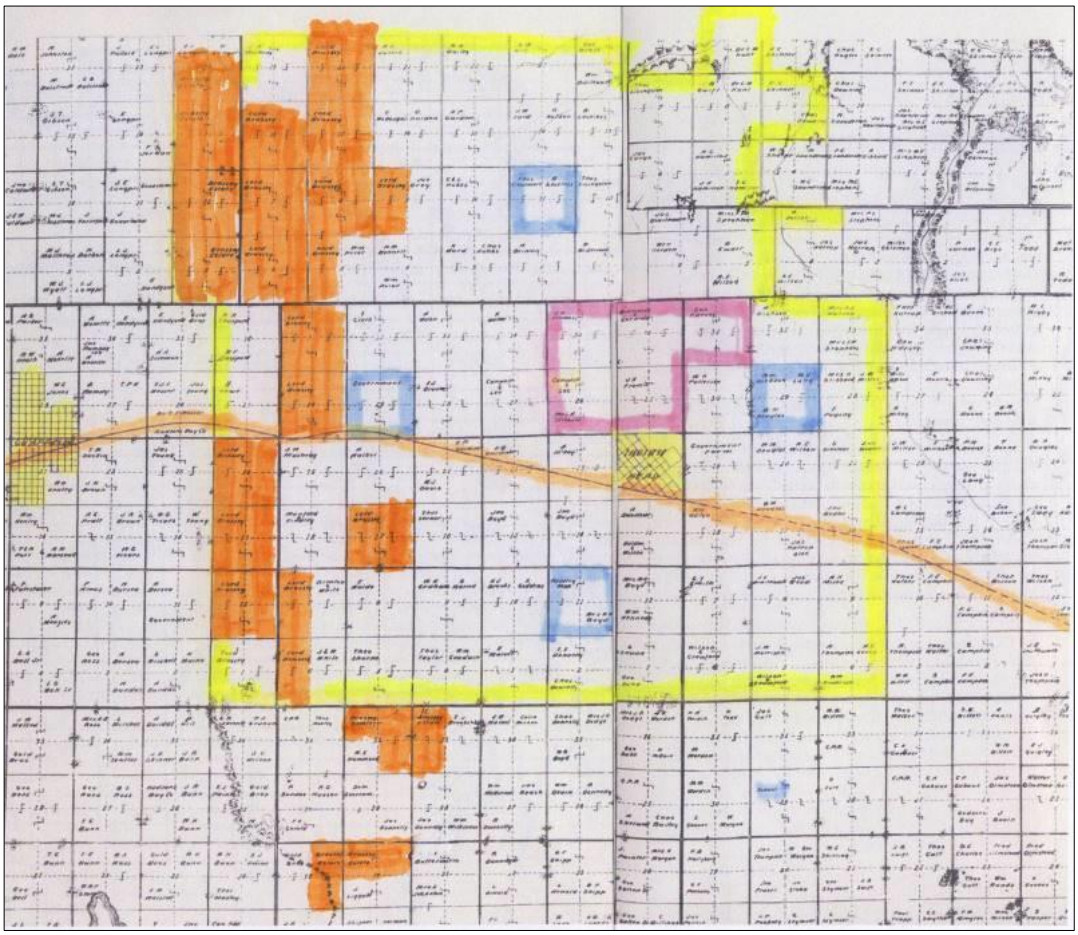
1902

No entry for Major W.R. Bell in 1902 Henderson's Winnipeg Directory

1902 – Jan. 23 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 4 – Major Bell returns from the east.

"**LATE LOCALS.** Major Bell, of Indian Head, returned from the east to-day."

Map showing Brassey Lands in ca. 1902 (orange), within and outside the Bell Farm boundaries of 1886 (yellow)



1902 - Feb 13 - *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 12 - Major Bell has arrived in Winnipeg after an absence of 6 years and has been living in the Bahamas

> "An old friend of Winnipeg, Major Bell formerly of Indian Head, arrived in the city yesterday after an absence of six years, and was warmly greeted. Major Bell is now a resident of the Bahama group of islands, owning two. He states he is another Robinson Crusoe, and is looking for a man Friday, but Friday must have capital to develop the richness of the soil. Major Bell is a guest at the Leland. "

1902 – Feb.20 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 - Major Bell returns to Winnipeg - ("the city" refers to Winnipeg)

> "Major Bell formerly of Indian Head, arrived in the city yesterday after an absence of six years, and was warmly greeted. Major Bell is now a resident of the Bahama group of islands, owning two. He states he is another Robinson Crusoe, and is looking for a man Friday, but Friday must have capital to develop the richness of the soil. Major Bell is a guest at the Leland. – Free Press"

1902 – May 28 - *Winnipeg (Free Press* ?) – reference to Major Bell's financial dealings in Arcola

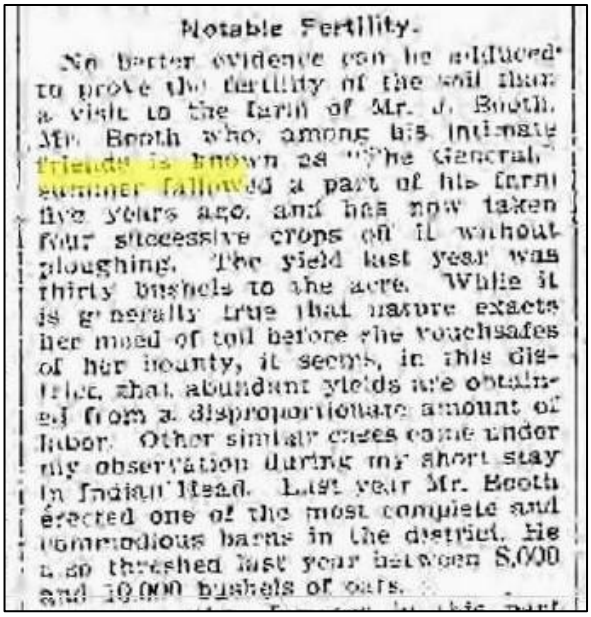
> "**Thirty-five Years Ago** – May 28, 1902 – Major Bell, former owner of the big Bell farm at Indian Head, was now a booster for the Arcola district, which he had visited recently with a party of American investors; he said there would be as much wheat grown there in the future as in the whole of Manitoba"

1902 – June 5 – *Regina Leader*, p. 8 – Major Bell predicts large grain crops for North-West Territories

> "Major Bell, formerly owner of the Bell Farm, Indian Head, predicts that inside of five years there will be 100,000,000 bushels of wheat grown in the North-West Territories."

1902 – Oct. 25 – *Manitoba Free Press* , p. 17-20 – Report on summer fallowing in the Indian Head region, including the former Bell Farm, Brassey Farm and the federal government's Experimental Farm.

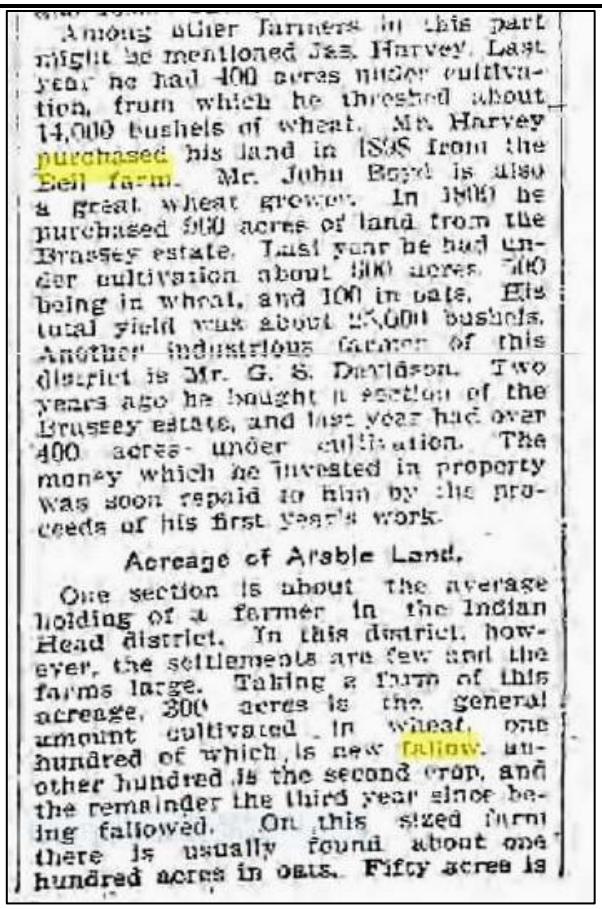
> [This is a three-page long article – too long to reproduce here. It contains general observations on the productivity of the region, and on the great variety of crops, fruits and tress grown on the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head. The following extracts relate to the benefits of summer fallowing at the Bell, Brassey and Experimental Farms.]



Notable Fertility.

No better evidence can be adduced to prove the fertility of the soil than a visit to the farm of Mr. J. Booth. Mr. Booth who, among his intimate friends is known as "The General," summer fallowed a part of his farm five years ago, and has now taken four successive crops off it without ploughing. The yield last year was thirty bushels to the acre. While it is generally true that nature exacts her meed of toil before she vouchsafes of her bounty, it seems, in this district, that abundant yields are obtained from a disproportionate amount of labor. Other similar cases came under my observation during my short stay in Indian Head. Last year Mr. Booth erected one of the most complete and commodious barns in the district. He also threshed last year between 8,000 and 10,000 bushels of oats.

Part 1 of 7: 67 kb

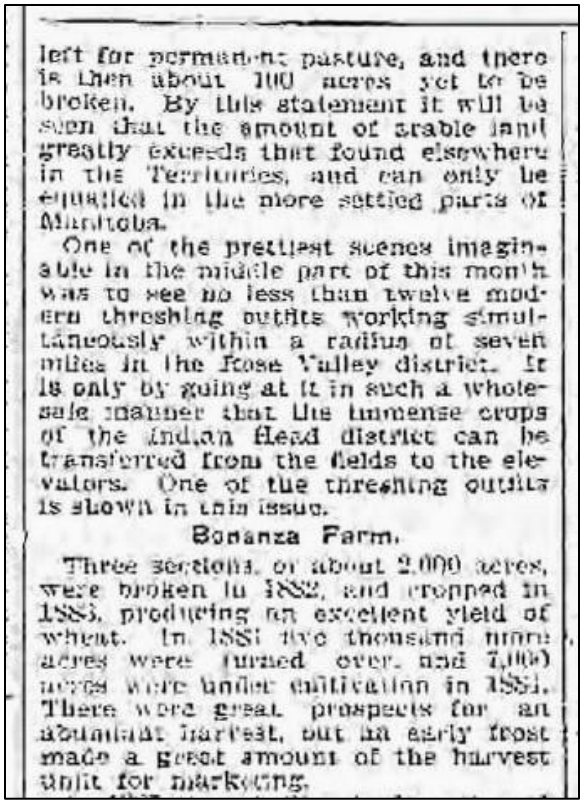


Among other farmers in this part might be mentioned Jas. Harvey. Last year he had 400 acres under cultivation, from which he threshed about 14,000 bushels of wheat. Mr. Harvey purchased his land in 1898 from the Bell farm. Mr. John Boyd is also a great wheat grower. In 1900 he purchased 960 acres of land from the Brassey estate. Last year he had under cultivation about 800 acres, 700 being in wheat, and 100 in oats. His total yield was about 25,000 bushels. Another industrious farmer of this district is Mr. G. S. Davidson. Two years ago he bought a section of the Brassey estate, and last year had over 400 acres under cultivation. The money which he invested in property was soon repaid to him by the proceeds of his first year's work.

Acreage of Arable Land.

One section is about the average holding of a farmer in the Indian Head district. In this district, however, the settlements are few and the farms large. Taking a farm of this acreage, 300 acres is the general amount cultivated in wheat, one hundred of which is new fallow, another hundred is the second crop, and the remainder the third year since being fallowed. On this sized farm there is usually found about one hundred acres in oats. Fifty acres is

Part 2 of 7: 100 kb



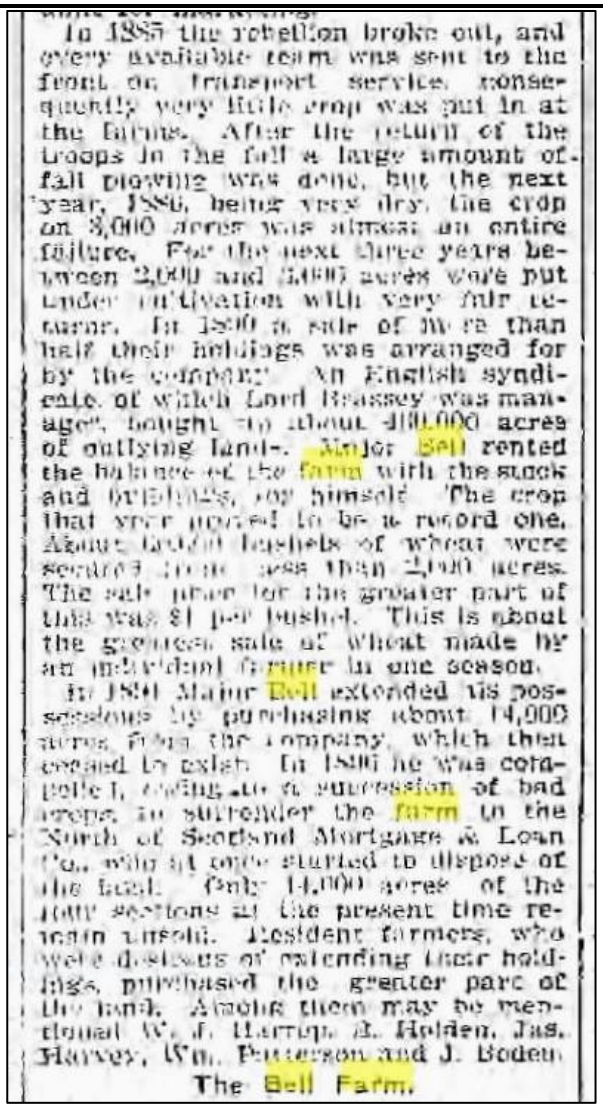
left for permanent pasture, and there is then about 100 acres yet to be broken. By this statement it will be seen that the amount of arable land greatly exceeds that found elsewhere in the Territories, and can only be equalled in the more settled parts of Manitoba.

One of the prettiest scenes imaginable in the middle part of this month was to see no less than twelve modern threshing outfits working simultaneously within a radius of seven miles in the Rose Valley district. It is only by going at it in such a wholesale manner that the immense crops of the Indian Head district can be transferred from the fields to the elevators. One of the threshing outfits is shown in this issue.

Bonanza Farm.

Three sections, or about 2,000 acres, were broken in 1882, and cropped in 1883, producing an excellent yield of wheat. In 1884 five thousand more acres were turned over, and 7,000 acres were under cultivation in 1885. There were great prospects for an abundant harvest, but an early frost made a great amount of the harvest unfit for marketing.

Part 3 of 7 85 kb

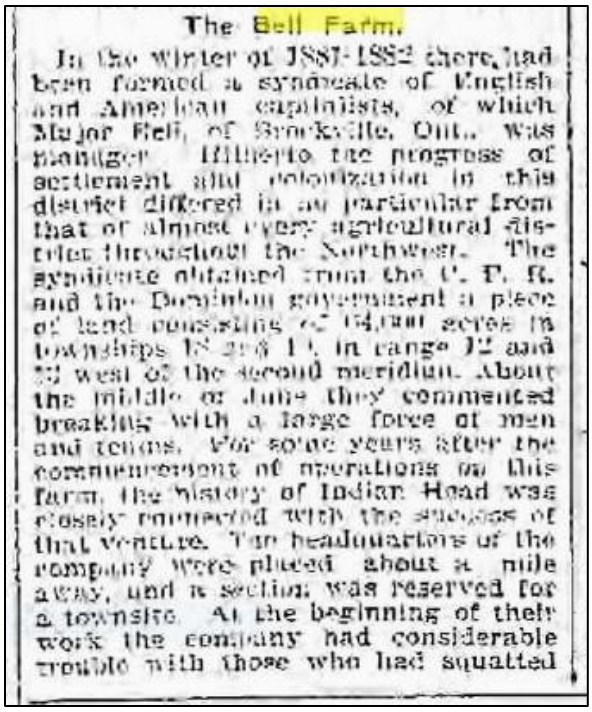


In 1885 the rebellion broke out, and every available team was sent to the front on transport service, consequently very little crop was put in at the farms. After the return of the troops in the fall a large amount of fall plowing was done, but the next year, 1886, being very dry, the crop on 3,000 acres was almost an entire failure. For the next three years between 2,000 and 3,000 acres were put under cultivation with very fair returns. In 1890 a sale of more than half their holdings was arranged for by the company. An English syndicate, of which Lord Brassey was manager, bought up about 40,000 acres of outlying land. Major Bell rented the balance of the farm with the stock and buildings, for himself. The crop that year proved to be a record one. About [illegible] bushels of wheat were secured from less than 2,000 acres. The sale price for the greater part of this was $1 per bushel. This is about the greatest sale of wheat made by an individual farmer in one season.

In 1891 Major Bell extended his possessions by purchasing about 14,000 acres from the company, which they owned to exist. In 1893 he was compelled, owing to a succession of bad crops, to surrender the farm to the North of Scotland Mortgage & Loan Co., who at once started to dispose of the land. Only 14,000 acres of the 40½ sections at the present time remain unsold. Resident farmers, who were desirous of extending their holdings, purchased the greater part of the land. Among them may be mentioned W. J. Harrup, A. Holden, Jas. Harvey, Wm. Patterson and J. Boden.

The Bell Farm.

Part 4 of 7 137 kb



The Bell Farm.

In the winter of 1881-1882 there had been formed a syndicate of English and American capitalists, of which Major Bell, of Brockville, Ont., was manager. Hitherto the progress of settlement and colonization in this district differed in no particular from that of almost every agricultural district throughout the Northwest. The syndicate obtained from the C. P. R. and the Dominion government a piece of land consisting of 64,000 acres in townships 18 and 19, in range 32 and 33 west of the second meridian. About the middle of June they commenced breaking with a large force of men and teams. For some years after the commencement of operations on this farm, the history of Indian Head was closely connected with the success of that venture. The headquarters of the company were placed about a mile away, and a section was reserved for a townsite. At the beginning of their work the company had considerable trouble with those who had squatted

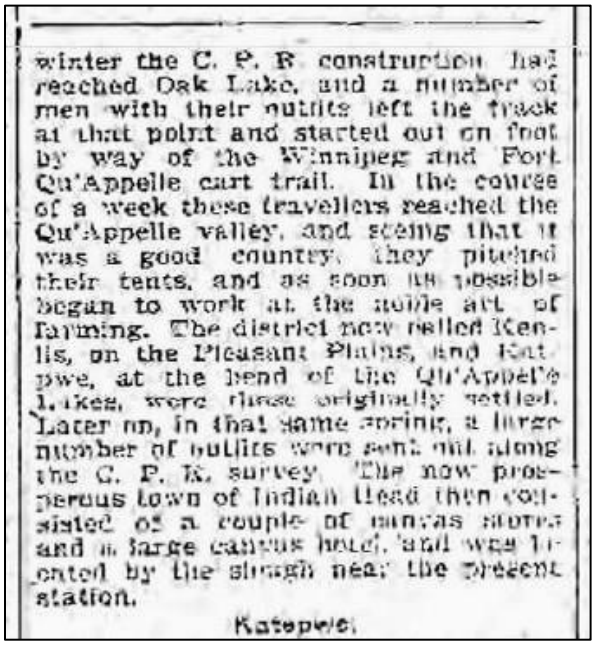
Part 5 of 7: 75 kb

on the land, which had been obtained from the government for a nominal sum. Those who had taken possession of the land subsequent to the granting of the company's charter were dispossessed, but others who were settled on the land before this were allowed to retain their holdings.

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Some features of the colonization of the west, which are unique and may perhaps prove interesting, are presented in the history of the early settlement of Indian Head and the surrounding district. About twenty years ago, in 1882, the early settlers came to this district by the Shoal Lake trail, and squatted on the then unsurveyed prairie to the north of the town. That

Part 6 of 7: 71 kb



winter the C. P. R. construction had reached Oak Lake, and a number of men with their outfits left the track at that point and started out on foot by way of the Winnipeg and Fort Qu'Appelle cart trail. In the course of a week these travellers reached the Qu'Appelle valley, and seeing that it was a good country, they pitched their tents, and as soon as possible began to work at the noble art of farming. The district now called Kenlis, on the Pleasant Plains, and Katepwe, at the head of the Qu'Appelle Lakes, were those originally settled. Later on, in that same spring, a large number of outfits were sent out along the C. P. R. survey. The now prosperous town of Indian Head then consisted of a couple of canvas stores and a large canvas hotel, and was located by the slough near the present station.

Katepwe.

Part 7 of 7 65 kb

As well, there is a report on p. 19 that H.H. Campkin had acquired part of the Bell Farm lands and the Bell Farmhouse:

"**H.H. Campton, Real Estate:** Mr. Campkin came to the town in 1884 from England. He is clerk of the town of Indian Head and also secretary of the board of trade. He does an extensive real estate, loan and insurance business, and is one of the busiest men in the Northwest Territories, being always besieged by clients – the results of judicious advertising in the *Free Press.* He has at the present time a large list of lands for sale at from $5 to $15 per acre, according to location, and the amount of improvements. Mr. Campkin has an established business reputation and

those who may write to him for information may rely upon receiving trustworthy replies. In addition to the extensive business mentioned, Mr. Campkin farms in conjunction with his brother, a 1,000 acre farm, part of the famous Bell farm, with the buildings thereof. Three hundred acres of this farm were in crop this year. Wheat averaged 37 bushels to the acre. Mr. Campkin is treasurer of the diocesan synod of Qu'Appelle." [Mr. Campton later moved to Regina.]

1903

Note: there is no entry for W.R. Bell in 1903 Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg; p. 67: MacKenzie & Mann listed for 147 Carlton (MacKenzie & Mann were the chief officers of the Canadian Northern Railway Company – and probably not resident in Winnipeg, but possibly owned the house.)

1903 – *Canadian Forestry Assoc. Annual Report*, p. 71 – Major Bell – strong wind anecdote

Mr. Knechtel, talking about the need for the establishment of more shelterbelts: "I was at the hotel in Regina [several years ago]. Major Bell came down there one morning and he said to the hotel keeper: 'I have some new more land." 'Well', the hotel keeper said, "I should think that a man with 4,000 acres had enough." Major Bell said: 'I could not help getting this land because there was a high wind last night and it blew the Experimental Farm over to my property.' The hotel keeper said: 'Are you going to keep it?' 'No,' replied Major Bell; 'the wind may change to-night and blow it all back.'

1903 – Jan. 14 – *Nassau-Bahamas etc.* – Update on Major Bell's lumber business plans (same as *Nassau Guardian*, p. 2)

"Abaco Pine is again to the front and we soon expect to see, or I ought to say hear, a Saw Mill of considerable capacity in full working order. Major Bell of Canada who is the promoter of this great enterprise, is now negotiating with some big lumbermen for the transfer of his lease on the Pine Forests of the Island. There are hundreds of millions of feet of good Pine timber awaiting capital wherewith to start the greatest industry that the Bahamas has ever had. In spite of topographical difficulties, in spite of opposition from the lumber interests of the South, this wood is bound to be used inside five years." – signed by: RUSTICUS

1903 – March 16 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 7 – Major Bell coming back to Winnipeg – note conflicting dates – did he return in 1902 or 1903?

1903 – April 3 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major Bell buys the McMillan House for $9,700

1903 - April 4 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 3 – Major Bell buys the McMillan House for $9,000

1903 – April 14 – *Nassau Guardian*, p. 2 – Comment on Major Bell's lumber business plans in the Bahamas

"**ISLAND ECHOES.** According to your Contemporary, the screeching buzz-saw will soon be heard on Abaco. I predicted some time ago, that the timber of this Island would be utilized. What

puzzles the natives is, that no son of the soil discovered this "bonanza," until Major Bell arrived and scooped the "pot."

Perhaps there are very few persons in the Bahamas who have any idea of the magnitude of this enterprise. It has been conservatively calculated, that, there are 4000,000 acres of available timber, averaging 50 trees of sizes to cut, which will yield an average of 100 feet of lumber per tree. This 400,000 x 50 x 100 = 2,000,000,000 feet, at say 2 cents per foot or $40,000,000 worth of lumber. Figures like "facts are stubborn things."

1903 – June 4 - *Winnipeg Daily Tribune*, p. 9 - Major Bell to Indian Head to inspect grain elevator under construction

"**MORE ELEVATORS – Major Bell to Erect a System in the Territories – To Sell to Farmers** –

Major Bell, formerly one of the largest farmers in the west, left last evening for Indian Head. The Major has now under construction at that point a large wheat elevator, and on its completion will erect several others at various points in the Territories. It is the intention to dispose of these elevators to the farmers of the district in which they are located, and when this is done there will be a complete system of farmers' elevators owned and controlled by the men who raise the grain.

The elevators will be of the most modern type and will be equal if not superior to those owned by the big companies. The difficulties attendant on the operation of loading from flat warehouses will be done away with and the farmers will be in the best position to handle their output."

1903 – July 2 – *Regina Leader* – p. 8 – Major Bell in Regina, sees Lieut. Gov. Forget and friends

"Major Bell, of Bell Farm fame, was in Regina on Monday looking up the Lieutenant-Governor, Commissioner Perry and other friends of the old days, including Major Montgomery, who, notwithstanding his serious illness, was allowed to see his old comrade-in-arms."

[Franks' Note: In 1884, Major Montgomery was the Registrar at Land Titles in Regina.]

1903 – July 8 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 2 – Construction of Major Bell's new steel elevator at Indian Head

"Major Bell's elevator scheme is being watched with interest by the farmers of this district. He is now erecting here, on a special site secured from the C.P.R., a steel elevator on concrete foundation, 20,000 bushels capacity, to be followed by others of various capacities from 12,000 to 20,000, if he meets with encouragement from the farmers. These elevators are to be leased to individual farmers at an annual rental on the capacity of each, and can be filled and emptied any number of times during the year without any extra charge beyond the annual rental. Should his scheme be successful it will be the means of solving to a great extent the difficulties met with at present by grain growers in connection with the present elevator system and transportation of grain."

1903 – Dec 5 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6 - F.H. Jones building steel grain elevator for Major Bell at Indian Head

"**AN ELEVATOR BUILDER – Mr. F.H. Jones in the City – Erected Ten This Season.**

Mr. F.H. Jones, the elevator builder, is in the city and reports the N.W.T. in a prosperous condition. The elevators which Mr. Jones has built this year are as follows: Truesdell Elevator Co, at Pettapiece, Man. 35,000; Rocanville, N.W.T., 35,000; Welwyn, N.W.T. 35,000; McLaughlin & Ellis, Alexander, Man., 35,000; Beresford, Man., 35,000; Grenfell, N.W.T. 35,000; Indian Head, N.W.T. 33,000; L. Leadbetter, Rocanville, N.W.T. 30,000; Joseph Glenn, Indian Head, 33,000; and Joseph Glenn, Grand Coulee, N.W.T. 50,000.

It is also known that Mr. Jones is completing the steel elevator for Major Bell at Indian Head. In speaking with a reporter of the *Free Press* yesterday afternoon Mr. Jones said the Bell elevator is an experiment as a building. There is no question as to its strength. Major Bell knew what he was doing when he designed that fireproof structure. Mr. Jones said the elevator would be ready to receive grain in about ten days. The C.P.R. have put in the spur from the main line.

Mr. Jones has been all through the fireproof part of the elevator building, as he was connected with D.A. Robinson, under the construction of the Great Northern elevator at Buffalo, N.Y., which was fireproof throughout and as a matter of fact is the largest elevator in the world under one roof."

(For photo of this elevator, see Aug, 1905)

1904

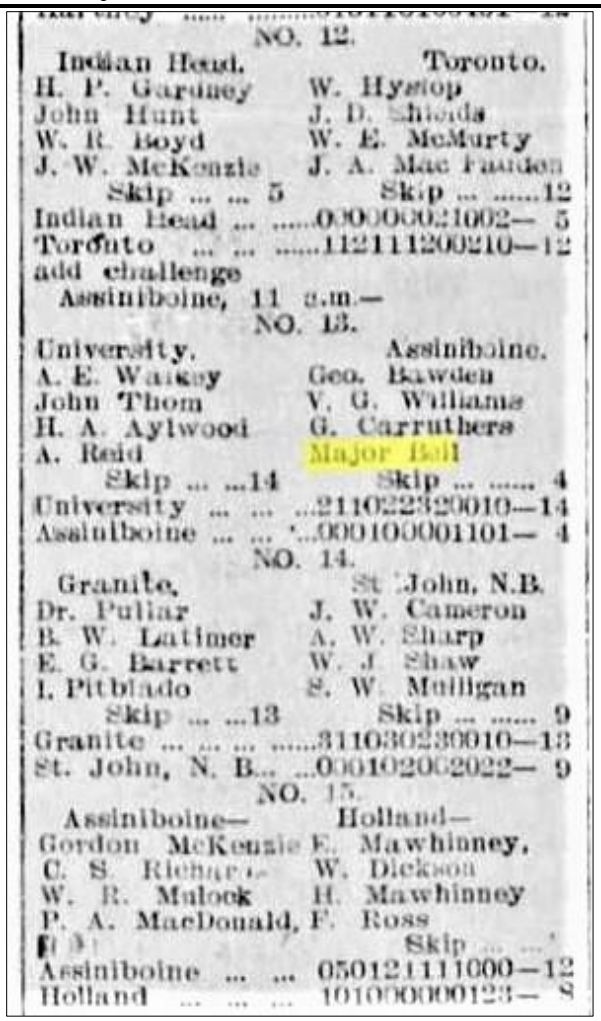
1904 – W.R. Bell – Bell Elevator Company, 42 Canada Life Block, 208 Portage Ave.; Home: 147 Carlton,

Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 95, 202, 283, 866.

1904 – Feb. 9 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 5 – Major Bell to skip curling team with Assiniboine rink

"145 RINKS ARE EXPECTED IN DRAW . . . THE CITY RINKS . . . Assiniboine [Club] . . . .Major Bell will also skip a rink from this club. . . . . "

1904 – Feb. 10 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 6 – Major Bell curls with Assiniboine rink (FRANK: which Major Bell?)



NO. 12.

Indian Head.	Toronto.
H. P. Gardiney	W. Hyslop
John Hunt	J. D. Shields
W. R. Boyd	W. E. McMurty
J. W. McKenzie	J. A. Mac Fadden
Skip 5	Skip ... .12

Indian Head ... .0000002100 2— 5
Toronto ... ...1121112002 10—12
add challenge
Assiniboine, 11 a.m.—

NO. 13.

University.	Assiniboine.
A. E. Walsey	Geo. Bawden
John Thom	V. G. Williams
H. A. Aylwood	G. Carruthers
A. Reid	Major Bell
Skip 14	Skip 4

University ... ...2110223200 10—14
Assiniboine ... ...0001000011 01— 4

NO. 14.

Granite.	St. John, N.B.
Dr. Pullar	J. W. Cameron
B. W. Latimer	A. W. Sharp
E. G. Barrett	W. J. Shaw
I. Pitblado	S. W. Mulligan
Skip 13	Skip 9

Granite ... ...3110302300 10—13
St. John, N. B... ...0001020020 22— 9

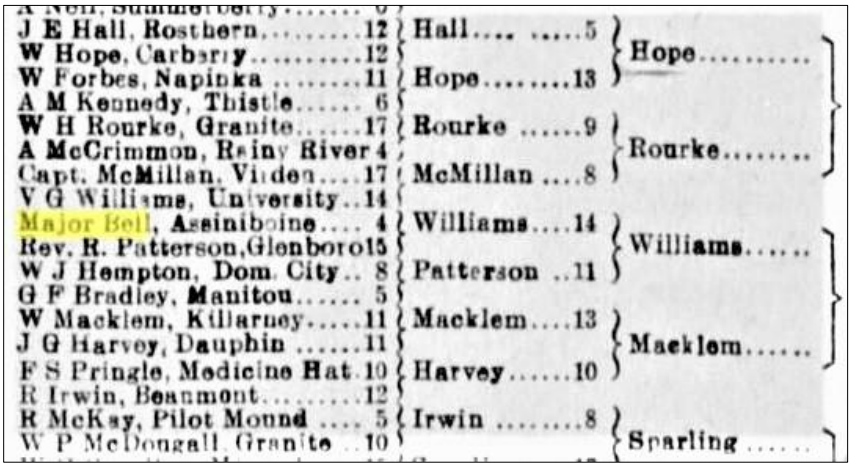
NO. 15.

Assiniboine—	Holland—
Gordon McKenzie	E. Mawhinney,
C. S. Richards	W. Dickson
W. R. Mulock	H. Mawhinney
P. A. MacDonald,	F. Ross
[illegible]	Skip ... ...

Assiniboine ... ... 0501211110 00—12
Holland ... ... 1010000001 23— 8

89kb

1904 – Feb. 11 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 6 – Bell defeated by Williams in curling bonspiel (FRANK: which Major Bell?)



J E Hall, Rosthern.....12	Hall.... 5	Hope.....
W Hope, Carberry.....12	Hope.....13	
W Forbes, Napinka 11		
A M Kennedy, Thistle..... 6		Rourke.....
W H Rourke, Granite.....17	Rourke 9	
A McCrimmon, Rainy River 4		
Capt. McMillan, Virden....17	McMillan 8	
V G Williams, University..14		Williams.....
Major Bell, Assiniboine.... 4	Williams....14	
Rev. R. Patterson, Glenboro15	Patterson ..11	
W J Hempton, Dom. City.. 8		
G F Bradley, Manitou..... 5		Macklem.....
W Macklem, Killarney.....11	Macklem....13	
J G Harvey, Dauphin 11		
F S Pringle, Medicine Hat 10	Harvey.....10	
R Irwin, Beanmont.....12		
R McKay, Pilot Mound 5	Irwin 8	Sparling .....
W P McDougall, Granite ..10		

1904 – Feb. 13 – *Winnipeg Tribune* , p. 6 – Major Bell defaults to McCaskill for MacMillan Cup (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

M'MILLAN CUP

Staples, Treherne, won by default from Peters, of Wawanesa.
Major Bell, Assiniboia, defaulted to McCaskill, of Gladstone.

1904 – March 16 - *Manitoba Free Press* "Twenty Years Ago Today" (i.e. 1884):

> "McArthur, Boyle and Campbell, bankers, have purchased the bonds of Major Bell's farm to the amount of $150,000."

1904 – July 23 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 14 – Major Bell among racing judges (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

Racing Officials.

Presiding judge—Francis Nelson, Toronto.
Judge—Peter Payne, Brandon, Man.
Judge—J. M. Baldwin, Killarney.
Starting judge—F. E. Stone, Burlington, Wis.
Clerk of the course—G. B. Tueson, Winnipeg.
Timers—J. W. Harris, F. G. Walsh and Major Bell.
Clerk of the scales—Fred. R. Hewitt.

The Races.

60 kb

1904 – Aug. 31 – *Regina Leader*, p. 3 – J. McD. Gordon goes to Ottawa in 1884 to talk about Bell Farm squatters – culled from 1884 issue of the *Regina Leader*:

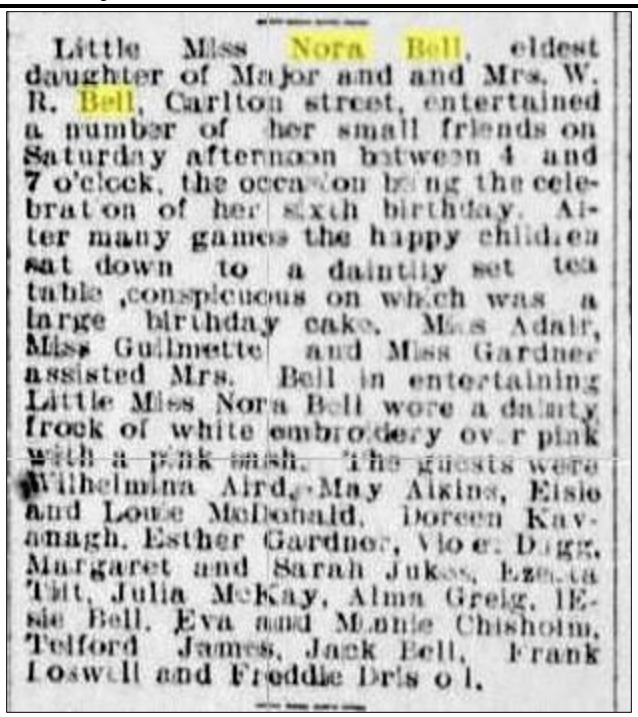
> "Mr. J. McD. Gordon, Dominion Lands Agent at Calgary, formerly of Regina, has left this town on Sunday evening for Ottawa in connection with the settlement of the squatters matters on the Bell Farm, about which the arbitrators were here lately, as mentioned in our last issue. He expects to be detained only a day or two in Ottawa and is coming right back."

1905

1905 – Major W.R. Bell: mgr., Bell Elevator Company listed in Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg; Business:

> Rm 42-208 Portage, p. 1202 ; Home: 147 Carlton - p. 353, 354.

1905 – April 24 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 9 – Little Miss Nora Bell entertains at her Carlton Street home



Little Miss Nora Bell, eldest daughter of Major and and Mrs. W. R. Bell, Carlton street, entertained a number of her small friends on Saturday afternoon between 4 and 7 o'clock, the occasion being the celebration of her sixth birthday. After many games the happy children sat down to a daintily set tea table, conspicuous on which was a large birthday cake. Miss Adair, Miss Guilmette and Miss Gardner assisted Mrs. Bell in entertaining Little Miss Nora Bell wore a dainty frock of white embroidery over pink with a pink sash. The guests were Wilhelmina Aird, May Aikins, Elsie and Louie McDonald, Doreen Kavanagh, Esther Gardner, Violet Dagg, Margaret and Sarah Jukes, Izetta Tait, Julia McKay, Alma Greig, Elsie Bell, Eva and Mamie Chisholm, Telford James, Jack Bell, Frank Loswell and Freddie Dris oll.

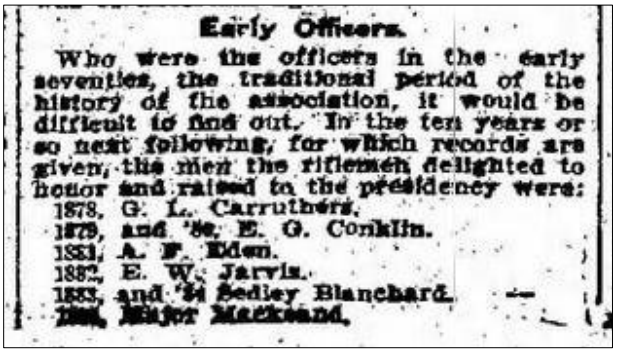
191 kb

1905 – May 19 - *Winnipeg Tribune*

Report on a court case between Major Bell and a former Director of the Bell Farming Company: Ralph T. Rokeby: **"Bell vs. Rokeby.**

This morning the appeal of R.T. Rokeby against the decision of Mr. Justice Richards, giving the plaintiff judgement and costs, in a suit for commission for the sale of the Rokeby farm, Headingly, was commenced before the full court. The plaintiff in the original action was Major Bell, and the defendant R.T. Rokeby, son of the Rev. Dr. Rokeby, owner of the Headingly farm. Major Bell claims to have sold the Rokeby farm for defendant, and put in a claim for commission. R.T. Rokeby denied liability, as he was acting only as agent for his father. At the time of the original action the counsel for the plaintiff asked leave to add the name of the father as co-defendant. This was granted by the judge. The father was added as co-defendant, but did not put in a defence, as he was outside the jurisdiction of the court. Mr. Justice Richards entered a verdict for the plaintiff. H.M. Howell this morning moved that this verdict be set aside with costs. H.M. Howell, K.C., and T.G. Mathers for the appelaints [sic]. T.M. Daly, K.C. and Mr. McClure for defendants."

1905 – 24 May – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6 – Bell among list of Man. Rifle Assoc. officers



Early Officers.

Who were the officers in the early seventies, the traditional period of the history of the association, it would be difficult to find out. In the ten years or so next following, for which records are given, the men the riflemen delighted to honor and raised to the presidency were:

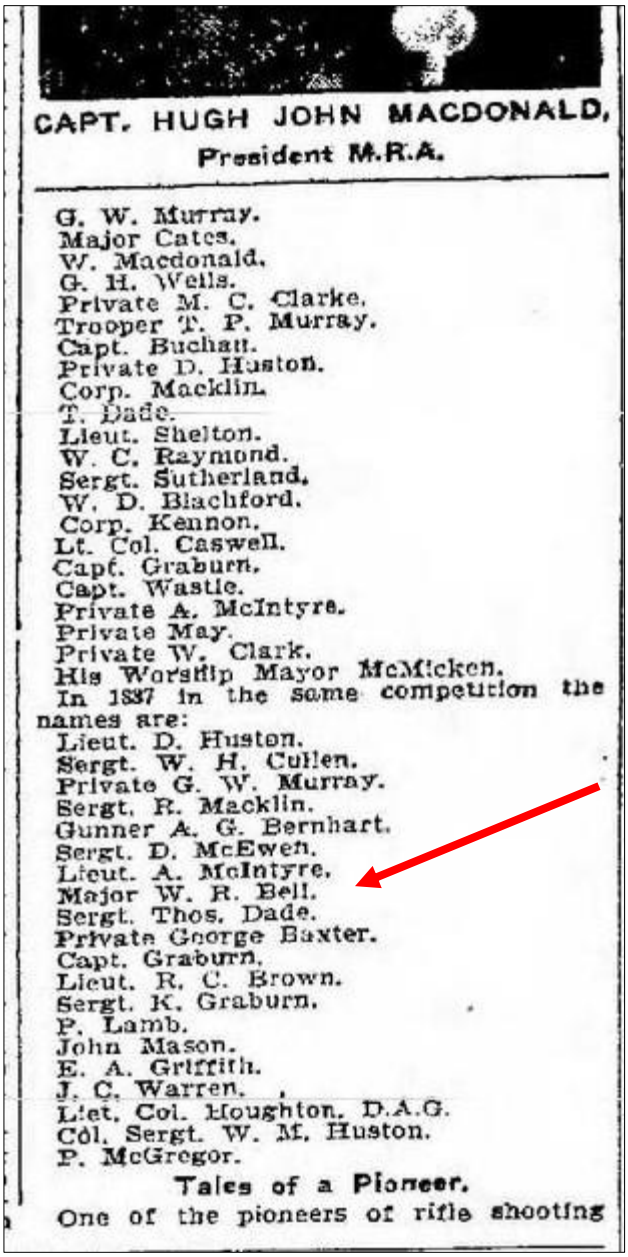
1878, G. L. Carruthers.
1879, and '80, E. G. Conklin.
1881, A. F. Eden.
1882, E. W. Jarvis.
1883, and '84 Bedley Blanchard.
1885, Major Macleand.

65 kb

1886, Commissioner J. Wrigley.
1887, and '88 Capt. S. L. Bedson.
1889, Alex. Logan.

A list of the competitors at one of these old tourneys would furnish a sort of roll call of pioneers in rifle shooting and in military matters. In the money class in the Lieut.-Governor's competition in 1888, are the following names in order of standing:

Private A. Gillies.
Private C. N. Mitchell.
J. Saunderson, B.R.A.
Trooper W. H. Cullin.
Private T. Carrol.
Capt. Bruce.
G. Ripple, B.R.A.



CAPT. HUGH JOHN MACDONALD,
President M.R.A.

G. W. Murray.
Major Cates.
W. Macdonald.
G. H. Wells.
Private M. C. Clarke.
Trooper T. P. Murray.
Capt. Buchan.
Private D. Huston.
Corp. Macklin.
T. Dade.
Lieut. Shelton.
W. C. Raymond.
Sergt. Sutherland.
W. D. Blachford.
Corp. Kennon.
Lt. Col. Caswell.
Capt. Graburn.
Capt. Wastie.
Private A. McIntyre.
Private May.
Private W. Clark.
His Worship Mayor McMicken.

In 1887 in the same competition the names are:

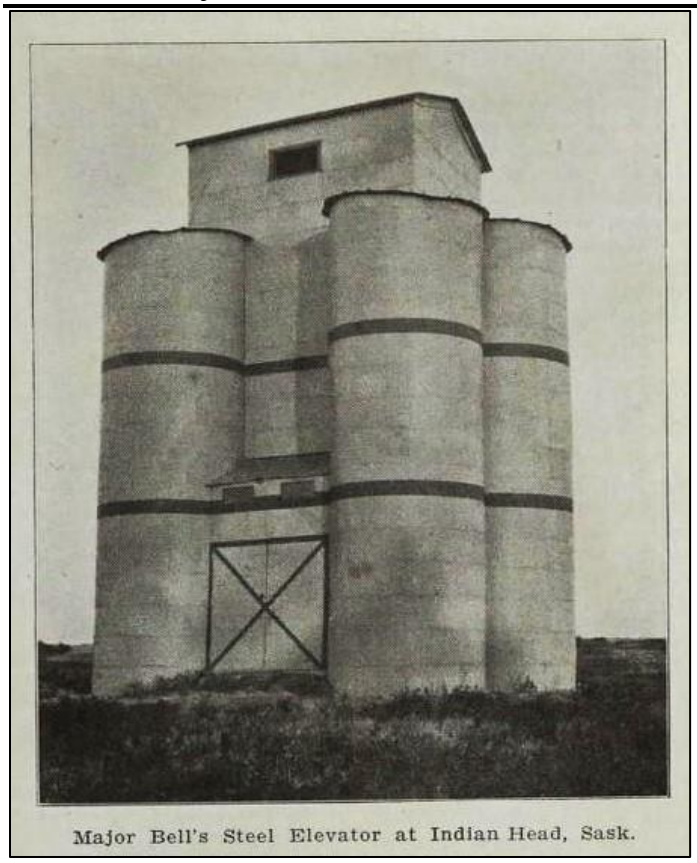
Lieut. D. Huston.
Sergt. W. H. Cullen.
Private G. W. Murray.
Sergt. R. Macklin.
Gunner A. G. Bernhart.
Sergt. D. McEwen.
Lieut. A. McIntyre.
Major W. R. Bell.
Sergt. Thos. Dade.
Private George Baxter.
Capt. Graburn.
Lieut. R. C. Brown.
Sergt. K. Graburn.
P. Lamb.
John Mason.
E. A. Griffith.
J. C. Warren.
Lieut. Col. Houghton, D.A.G.
Col. Sergt. W. M. Huston.
P. McGregor.

Tales of a Pioneer.

One of the pioneers of rifle shooting

127 kb 103 kb

1905 – Sept. 10 - *Grain Dealers Journal,* Vol. XV, No. 5, p. 309 & associated text, p. 308 - Trip undertaken Aug. 19-25.



Major Bell's Steel Elevator at Indian Head, Sask.

Only one steel eltr. was found on the entire trip, that of Major Bell at Indian Head. It is in reality a group of steel circular bins with a leg in the center. A sweep horse-power immediately in front of the driveway forces a suspension of receiving while grain is being elevated. However, inasmuch as the track along this eltr. is being taken up it will amount to little more than a steel monument to Major Bell's folly.

1905 – Oct. 13 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 2 – Major and Mrs. Bell at Manitoba Hall event (FRANK: which Major Bell?)

> "M.A.P. – MOSTLY ABOUT PEOPLE IN SOCIETY . . . . . The State ball given by Sir Daniel and Lady McMillan in honour of their excellencies Lord and Lady Grey in Manitoba Hall . . . . Major and Mrs. Bell . . . . . " (FRANK: Due to more than one Major Bell in Winnipeg, it is unclear as to which this reference is made.)

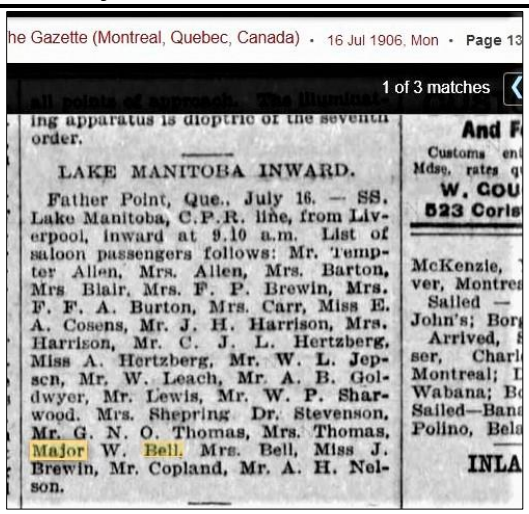
1906

1906 – William R. Bell – retired – Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 312; Home: 147 Carlton

1906 – Census – lists Bell Family at 147 Carlton:

> William R., Catherine, Nora, Elsie B., John A., William A. (see note for 1911 census discrepancies)

1906 – 16 July – *Montreal Gazette*, p. 13 – Major & Mrs. Bell on *Lake Manitoba* from Liverpool to Canada



he Gazette (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) · 16 Jul 1906, Mon · Page 13

1 of 3 matches

ing apparatus is dioptric of the seventh order.

LAKE MANITOBA INWARD.

Father Point, Que., July 16. — SS. Lake Manitoba, C.P.R. line, from Liverpool, inward at 9.10 a.m. List of saloon passengers follows: Mr. Tempter Allen, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Barton, Mrs Blair, Mrs. F. P. Brewin, Mrs. F. F. A. Burton, Mrs. Carr, Miss E. A. Cosens, Mr. J. H. Harrison, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. C. J. L. Hertzberg, Miss A. Hertzberg, Mr. W. L. Jepson, Mr. W. Leach, Mr. A. B. Goldwyer, Mr. Lewis, Mr. W. P. Sharwood. Mrs. Shepring Dr. Stevenson, Mr. G. N. O. Thomas, Mrs. Thomas, Major W. Bell, Mrs. Bell, Miss J. Brewin, Mr. Copland, Mr. A. H. Nelson.

And F
Customs en
Mdse, rates q
W. COU
523 Corls

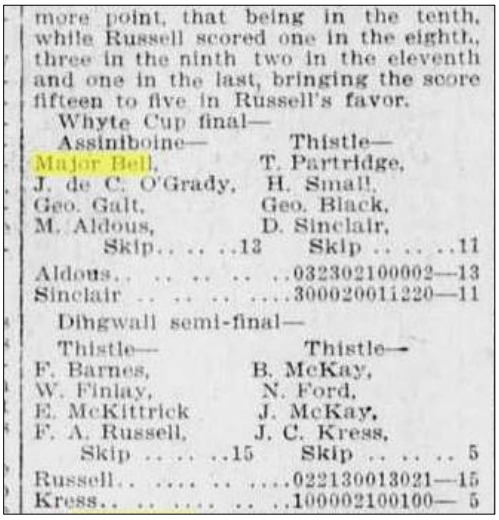
McKenzie,
ver, Montre
Sailed —
John's; Bor
Arrived,
ser, Charl
Montreal; L
Wabana; B
Sailed—Ban
Polino, Bela

INLA

1907

1907 – William R. Bell – retired – Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 385; Home: 147 Carlton

1907 – Feb. 18 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 6 – Major Bell curling with Assiniboine rink – and Whyte Cup prize details (FRANK: which Major Bell?)



more point, that being in the tenth, while Russell scored one in the eighth, three in the ninth two in the eleventh and one in the last, bringing the score fifteen to five in Russell's favor.

Whyte Cup final—

Assiniboine—	Thistle—
Major Bell,	T. Partridge,
J. de C. O'Grady,	H. Small,
Geo. Galt,	Geo. Black,
M. Aldous,	D. Sinclair,
Skip.. 13	Skip 11

Aldous.. .. ..032302100002—13
Sinclair .. ..300020011220—11

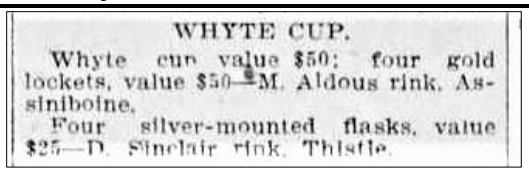
Dingwall semi-final—

Thistle—	Thistle—
F. Barnes,	B. McKay,
W. Finlay,	N. Ford,
E. McKittrick	J. McKay,
F. A. Russell,	J. C. Kress,
Skip 15	Skip 5

Russell.. ....022130013021—15
Kress.. .. ..100002100100— 5

75 kb

And – Whyte Cup prize details



WHYTE CUP.

Whyte cup value $50; four gold lockets, value $50—M. Aldous rink, Assiniboine.

Four silver-mounted flasks, value $25—D. Sinclair rink, Thistle.

36 kb

1907 – June 27 – *Winnipeg Tribune* – notice relating to Mrs. Catherine Bell's social activities

Mrs. W. R. Bell entertained informally at "an afternoon tea" yesterday in honor of Mrs. MacKelrey, of Regina. Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Dagg, presided over the pretty tea table decorated with brilliant red carnations. Miss Gaffner and Miss Guilmette looked after the guests. The guests included Mrs. Champion, Mrs. Guilmette, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Dagg, Mrs. Concurn, Mrs. Champion, Mrs. England, Mrs. T. A. Macdonald, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Locke, Mrs. Chambre, Mrs. (Capt.) Kitchen, Mrs. Aird, Mrs. J. Walker, Mrs. Warner, Mrs. W. W. McMillan, Mrs. Chisholm, Miss Tilt, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Carmichael, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Monkman, Mrs. Colquhoun, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Vivian, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Bawlf, Dr. Mary Crawford, Miss Crawford, Mrs. E. A. James,

126 kb

Mrs. Bawlf, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. McWilliams and others.

21 kb

1907 – July 2 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 – Comment on reasons for the Bell Farm failure

> "COMMENT ON CURRENT EVENTS . . . . . Of the contending elements in the Northwest, it seems likely that the American will prevail. The American is familiar, not only with the mode of farming and the machine, but with the climate and the life. The Englishman is not used to solitude any more than to forty below zero. He has lived in a village. Had large farms succeeded in the Northwest, he might have gone on the staff and had company as well as guidance. But the experiment of the great Bell farm failed, apparently because the expense of keeping the staff during the winter was too great. - A BYSTANDER."

1907 – 17 Aug.- *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 38 – Major Bell won the Governor General's Bronze medal in 1891

1907 – Oct. 3 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 10 – 20 Years Ago = 1887

> "Major Bell, of Indian Head, is in the city." – [FRANK - this was written in 1887]

1908

1908 – William R. Bell – Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 400; Home: 147 Carlton

1909

Note: there is no 1909 Henderson Directory for Winnipeg available

1909 – May 25 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 2 – Mrs. W.R. Bell will not receive for rest of season

"Mrs. W.R. Bell, 147 Carlton street, Mrs. Pearson, 377 St. Mary's avenue, and Mrs. L.C. MacIntyre, 547 Broadway, will not receive again this season."

ALSO, this reference to Major Bell at the Manitoba Club Rifle Association event:

Much credit is due to Major Bell for the arrangements so carefully planned for the comfort and accommodation of the many who attended the fourth annual event of the Manitoba Club Rifle association. Upon the arrival of the cars at Sturgeon Creek, the guests repaired to the various marquees, when a very tempting luncheon was partaken of. The Ninetieth band was in attentance. Among those in attendance were noticed: Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Alloway, Major and Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Christie, Mr. and Mrs. Champion, Miss Champion, Mr. and Mrs. Chaffey, Mr. and Mrs. Carruthers, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. K. Drury, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fisher, Capt. and Mr. Gautier, Mr. and Mrs. Galt, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, Capt. and Mrs. Ketchen, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Mathers, Major and Mr. Macdonnell, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Sharpe, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Waugh, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Patton, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Clark, Capt. and Mrs. Carruthers, Mr. and Mrs. Kohl, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Haslett, Mrs. Langford, Mr. and Mrs. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Mc-

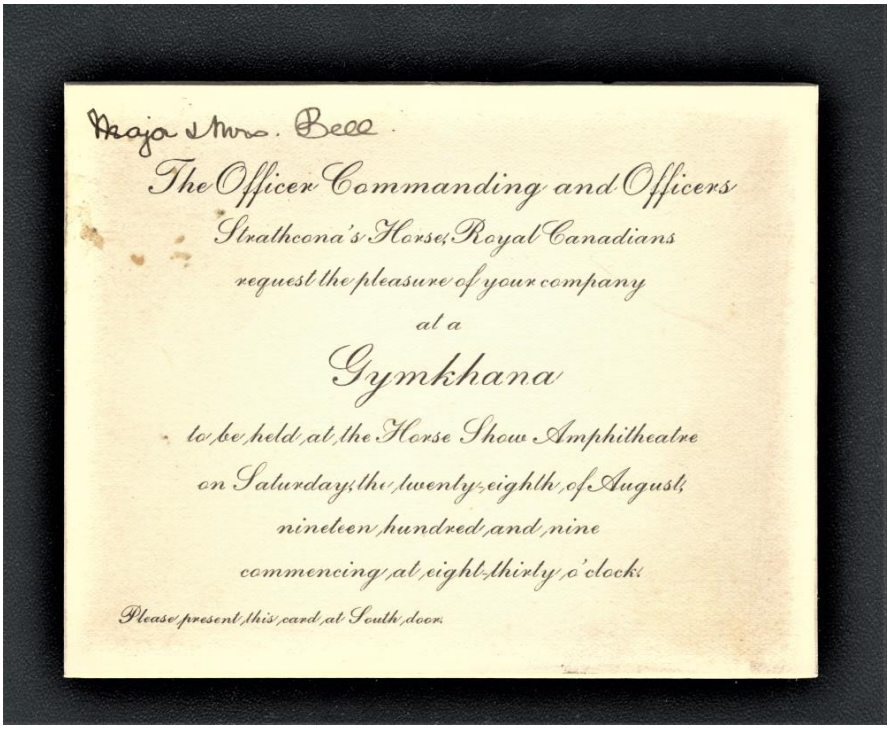
112 kb

1909 -June 11 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 8 – Major and Mrs. Bell guests at Government House, Winnipeg

"Government House was the scene yesterday afternoon of a very bright reception, when Lady McMillan received her many guests, wearing a handsome gown of black satin and lace. Miss Richards, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Robert Royce, Mrs. Alloway and Mrs. Mrs. Hegan assisted.

Following is a list of those who registered. . . . . Major and Mrs. W.R. Bell, ..."

1909 – Aug. 28 – Calling Card # 11 – to Major and Mrs. Bell from the Officer Commanding and Officers, Strathcona's Horse Royal Canadians, at the Gymkhana, at the Horse Show Amphitheatre – (Source: the Bell Family Collection at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.)


Maja & Mrs. Bell

The Officer Commanding and Officers
Strathcona's Horse Royal Canadians
request the pleasure of your company
at a
Gymkhana
to be held at the Horse Show Amphitheatre
on Saturday the twenty-eighth of August
nineteen hundred and nine
commencing at eight thirty o'clock
Please present this card at South door

676 kb

1909 – Oct. 9 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Major and Mrs. Bell at a "Most Brilliant Social Function" – a grand ball at Government House. They were listed among the "B" category of guests, which were grouped alphabetically over several pages in the newspaper.

1910

1910 – Bell, W.R. & Co Ltd. (mgr. Financial Agents), Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 293 & 459;

354 Main Street, 21-22 Empress Block, Second floor; H: 147 Carlton

1910 – May 6 – Death of King Edward VII

1910 – June 3 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p.3 – Major Bell staying at the King Edward Hotel

1910 – June 8 – *Edmonton Capital* – Bell invests in Cardiff Mine

CARDIFF MINE CHANGES HANDS

Purchasers Are Acting for Mr. Rod Mackenzie, Son of William Mackenzie

Mr. Rod Mackenzie, son of William Mackenzie of Mackenzie & Mann, has secured the Cardiff coal company, operating at Morinville. The price paid is $300,000. The deal was concluded through Mr. Mackenzie's agent, Mr. John Anderson, of the Winnipeg law firm of O'Brady & Anderson, and Major Bell, also of Winnipeg. These two gentlemen have been in the city for the past week engineering the deal for their principal.

The terms of the purchase call for a payment of $100,000 in cash and the balance in mortgage bonds at 6 per cent. semi annually and O'Brady & Anderson have undertaken to float the bonds in the Old Country. According to the agreement $10,000 of the purchase price has been deposited with ocal solicitors. The capital of the new concern is to be $750,000.

The propemy of the Cardiff coal company comprises 500 acres and the mines have a capacity of 1,000 tons daily, although the output in the busiest season is only 600 tons. The mines have the distinction of being the only ones which are enabled to load nine cars at one time. There are three seams on the property and the one which is being worked at present is from 14 to 22 feet in width, while the others are somewhat smaller, ranging at about eight and seven feet.

There are three shafts, only one of which has been worked to capacity.

The shareholders of the late company were: J. H. Pickard, J. H. Morris, E. A. James, Charles Carey, Geo. Swaisland, S. Larue, L. Savoir, Geo. Ray, R. Secord P. E. Lessard, B. F. Morris, besides several Detroit capitalists.

T. H. Eaton will likely be manager of the new company.

144 kb 114 kb

1910 – June 11 – *The District Ledger,* Fernie, British Columbia

Reference to Major Bell's involvement with coal mining at the Cardiff / Morinville area, about 15-20 miles north of Edmonton, Alberta.

THE DISTRICT LEDGER, FE

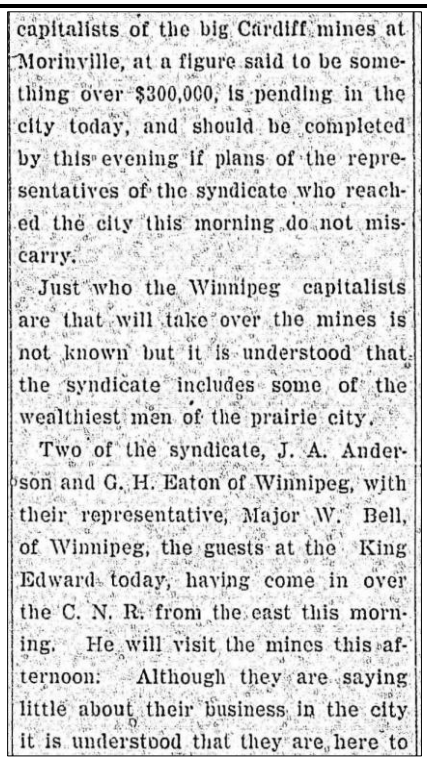
BIG MINING DEAL ON

Cardiff Mines About to Pass Into Hands of Syndicate

(Edmonton Bulletin)

One of the biggest coal mine deals every put through in this end of the province, a deal which involves the transfer to a syndicate of Winnipeg

282 kb

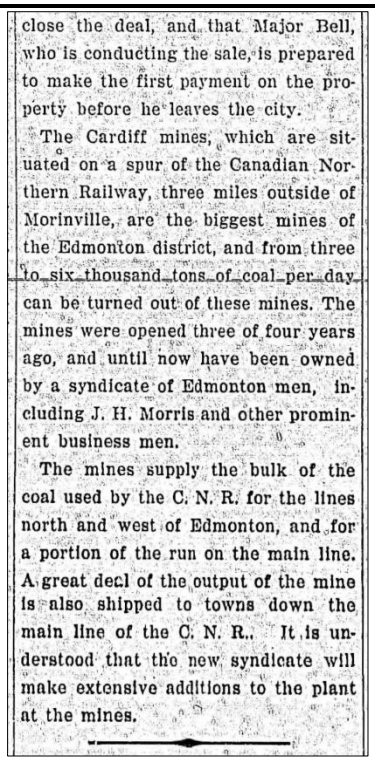


capitalists of the big Cardiff mines at Morinville, at a figure said to be something over $300,000, is pending in the city today, and should be completed by this evening if plans of the representatives of the syndicate who reached the city this morning do not miscarry.

Just who the Winnipeg capitalists are that will take over the mines is not known but it is understood that the syndicate includes some of the wealthiest men of the prairie city.

Two of the syndicate, J. A. Anderson and G. H. Eaton of Winnipeg, with their representative, Major W. Bell, of Winnipeg, the guests at the King Edward today, having come in over the C. N. R. from the east this morning. He will visit the mines this afternoon. Although they are saying little about their business in the city it is understood that they are here to

260 kb



close the deal, and that Major Bell, who is conducting the sale, is prepared to make the first payment on the property before he leaves the city.

The Cardiff mines, which are situated on a spur of the Canadian Northern Railway, three miles outside of Morinville, are the biggest mines of the Edmonton district, and from three to six thousand tons of coal per day can be turned out of these mines. The mines were opened three of four years ago, and until now have been owned by a syndicate of Edmonton men, including J. H. Morris and other prominent business men.

The mines supply the bulk of the coal used by the C. N. R. for the lines north and west of Edmonton, and for a portion of the run on the main line. A great deal of the output of the mine is also shipped to towns down the main line of the C. N. R.. It is understood that the new syndicate will make extensive additions to the plant at the mines.

306 kb

1910 – Oct 4 – *Edmonton Capital,* p. 2 – Bell in Edmonton to complete Cardiff Mine deal

"**Here to Complete the Cardiff Deal** – For the purpose of continuing negotiations for the taking over of the Cardiff Coal Company's mines at Morinville, by the Cardiff Collieries Ltd. of Winnipeg, the Hon T. Mayne Daly and Major W.R. Bell of the latter company are in the city.

When seen by The Capital this morning Major Bell would not make any statement for publication, explaining that when he was here last statements were made in a local contemporary which were credited to him and nearly cost him thousands of dollars. When the deal was completed, however, he would give full particulars.

1911

1911 – Jan 9 - *Winnipeg Tribune* p. 2 - Major and Catherine Bell go to England or southern USA, etc. (?)

"Major and Mrs. W.R. Bell leave shortly for an extended trip abroad"

1911 – Bell, W.R. & Co Ltd. (mgr. Financial Agents) – Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 207, 290, 445, 1606;

354 Main Street, 22-23 Empress Block, Second floor ; Home: 147 Carlton

1911 – W.R. Bell & Co. Ltd, financial brokers – Winnipeg Telephone Book, 1911

"W.R. Bell & Co. Ltd, financial brokers, 354 Main Street - Phone number "Main 9160"

1911 - Census - lists Bell family at 147 Carlton:

William R., Catherine, Nora, Elsie, John, William (check names and birthdates of children from 1906 and 1911 Census records – seem to conflict)

1911 – Jan. 24 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2 – Death of A.J. Osment – and role in building the Bell Farm

"**INDIAN HEAD PIONEER DEAD. A.J. Osment Who Came West for Major Bell Passes Away.** Indian Head, Sask. Jan. 22 – A.J. Osment, a resident of Indian Head since 1882, died at his residence here last night. Mr. Osment was brought West under contract by Major Bell in 1882 from Brockville, Ont., to build the cottages on the extensive Bell farm. Completing the contract, he opened a general store. He built many of the chief buildings and business blocks in Indian Head, including the Imperial Hotel and Opera House block. Mr. Osment was for many years a member of the rural council and was chairman of the municipality. He leaves a wife and four children."

1911 – Jan. 26 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 9 – Major Bell invests in Cardiff coal mine near Edmonton

GREAT COAL DEAL.

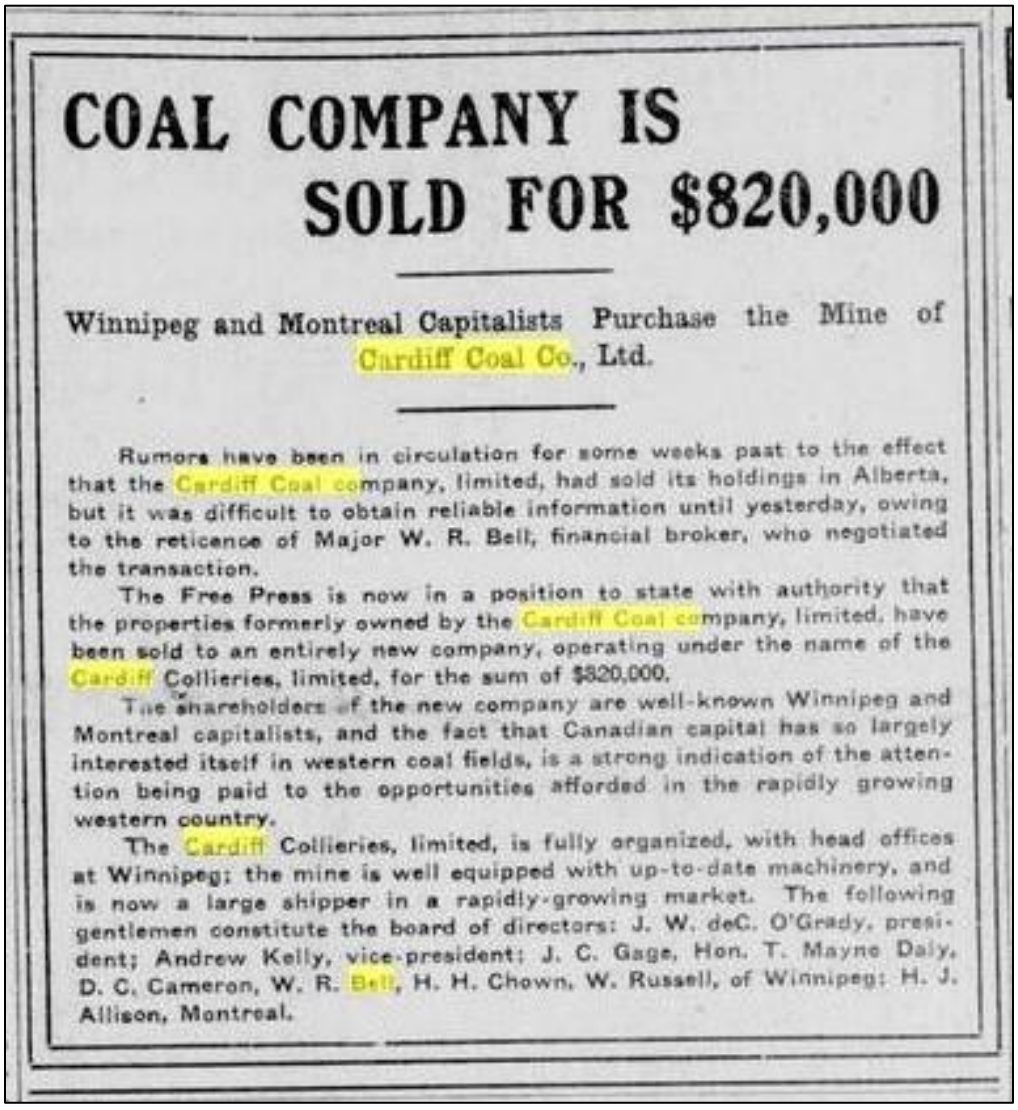
Cardiff Coal Co. Sells Out to Cardiff Collieries Co. for $820,000.

The Cardiff Coal company, limited, has sold its holdings in Alberta to a company of Winnipeg and Montreal capitalists, the price paid for the properties being $820,000.

The sale was made a few days ago by Major W. R. Bell, financial broker, and negotiations were in progress for several months. The new company is called the Cardiff Collieries, J. W. deC. O'Grady, of Winnipeg, being president. The other officers of the company are Andrew Kelly, vice-president, J. W. Gage, Hon. T. Mayne Daly, D. C. Cameron, W. H. Bell, H. H. Chown, W. Russell, of Winnipeg, and H. J. Allison, of Montreal. The head offices of the new company will be in Winnipeg. Major Bell and J. W. deC. O'Grady are both out of the city today, and no further information could be received from the offices of either.

96 kb

1911 – Jan. 26 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 1 – Cardiff Coal Company sold to Major Bell & associates



COAL COMPANY IS SOLD FOR $820,000

Winnipeg and Montreal Capitalists Purchase the Mine of Cardiff Coal Co., Ltd.

Rumors have been in circulation for some weeks past to the effect that the Cardiff Coal company, limited, had sold its holdings in Alberta, but it was difficult to obtain reliable information until yesterday, owing to the reticence of Major W. R. Bell, financial broker, who negotiated the transaction.

The Free Press is now in a position to state with authority that the properties formerly owned by the Cardiff Coal company, limited, have been sold to an entirely new company, operating under the name of the Cardiff Collieries, limited, for the sum of $820,000.

The shareholders of the new company are well-known Winnipeg and Montreal capitalists, and the fact that Canadian capital has so largely interested itself in western coal fields, is a strong indication of the attention being paid to the opportunities afforded in the rapidly growing western country.

The Cardiff Collieries, limited, is fully organized, with head offices at Winnipeg; the mine is well equipped with up-to-date machinery, and is now a large shipper in a rapidly-growing market. The following gentlemen constitute the board of directors: J. W. deC. O'Grady, president; Andrew Kelly, vice-president; J. C. Gage, Hon. T. Mayne Daly, D. C. Cameron, W. R. Bell, H. H. Chown, W. Russell, of Winnipeg; H. J. Allison, Montreal.

72 kb

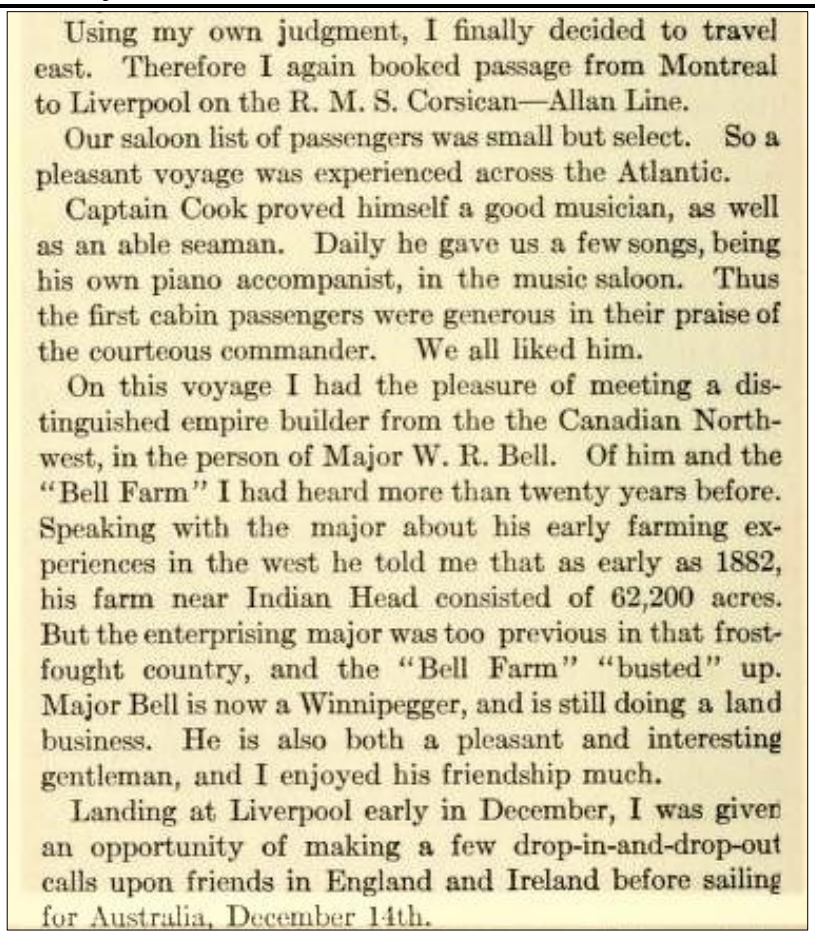
1911 – March – *Empress of Britain* – Passenger List

Bell family arrive at Saint John, N.B. : W.R., Catherine and Nora

1911 – July 15 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3 – Anecdote about two men named Major Bell in Winnipeg

> "TEN YEARS HENCE - The public will more or less regret to hear that poor old Major Bell (not the Bell farm expert but the other duffer) got on the nerves of his comrades to such an extent with his stories, anecdotes, etc., that a committee was appointed last Thursday at midnight to quietly chloroform the old Shriner and the experts did their work with such neatness and dispatch as called forth the warmest ecomiums [sic] from all classes. It is now sincerely hoped that the public will sail along in calm, smooth waters undisturbed by noisy story tellers. A movement is on foot to start "a little list" of chloroform eleigibles. [sic]"

1911- late November – early December – Major and Catherine Bell sail from Montreal to Liverpool, England on the Allan Line steam ship: the *R.M.S. Corsican*, as noted below, from C. John Sparling:



Using my own judgment, I finally decided to travel east. Therefore I again booked passage from Montreal to Liverpool on the R. M. S. Corsican—Allan Line.

Our saloon list of passengers was small but select. So a pleasant voyage was experienced across the Atlantic.

Captain Cook proved himself a good musician, as well as an able seaman. Daily he gave us a few songs, being his own piano accompanist, in the music saloon. Thus the first cabin passengers were generous in their praise of the courteous commander. We all liked him.

On this voyage I had the pleasure of meeting a distinguished empire builder from the the Canadian Northwest, in the person of Major W. R. Bell. Of him and the "Bell Farm" I had heard more than twenty years before. Speaking with the major about his early farming experiences in the west he told me that as early as 1882, his farm near Indian Head consisted of 62,200 acres. But the enterprising major was too previous in that frost-fought country, and the "Bell Farm" "busted" up. Major Bell is now a Winnipegger, and is still doing a land business. He is also both a pleasant and interesting gentleman, and I enjoyed his friendship much.

Landing at Liverpool early in December, I was given an opportunity of making a few drop-in-and-drop-out calls upon friends in England and Ireland before sailing for Australia, December 14th.

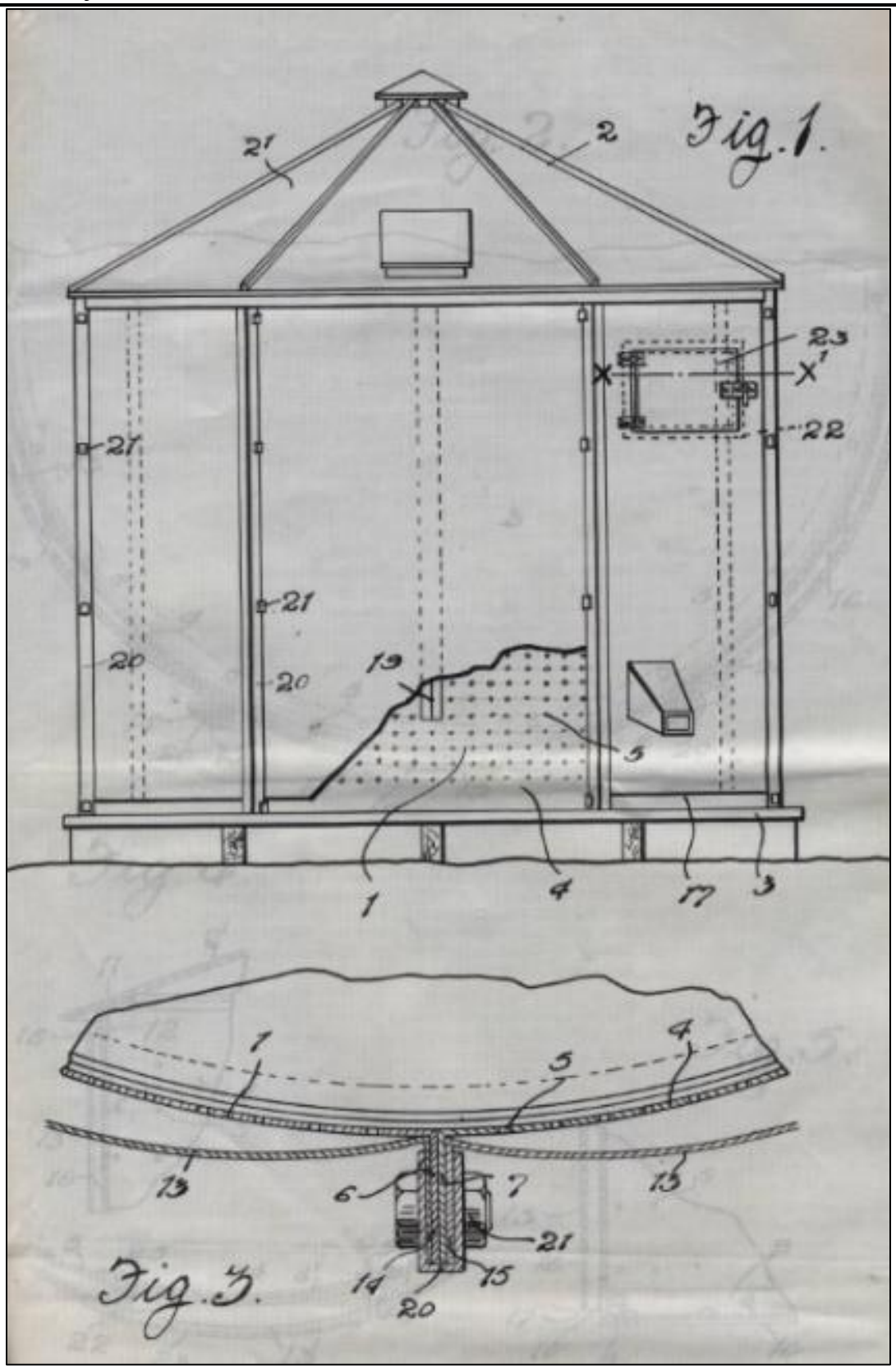
Source: The Irish- Canuck-Yankee "distinguished empire builder from the Canadian Northwest", p. 368, by C. John Sparling. https://archive.org/stream/irishcanuckyanke00spar#page/368/mode/2up

1912

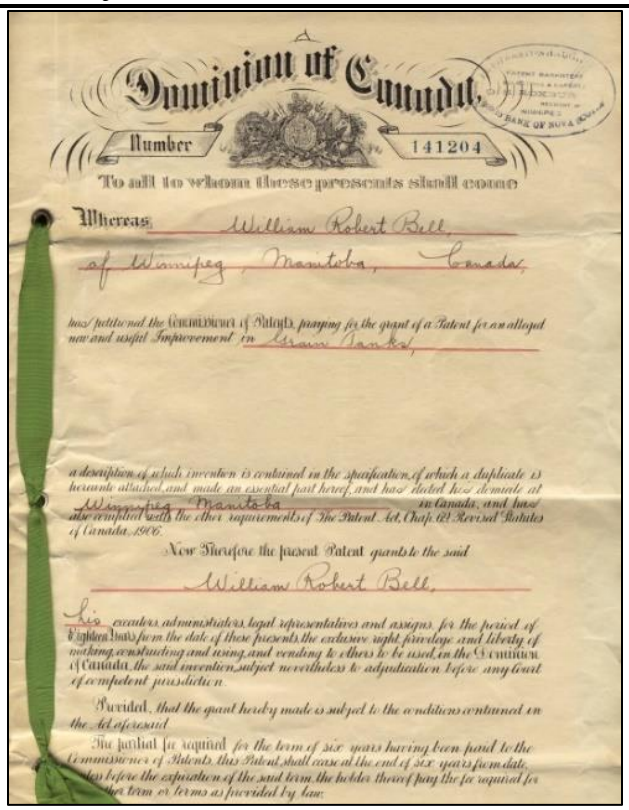
1912 – Bell, W.R. & Co Ltd. (mgr. Financial Agents) – Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 340, 426, 612

354 Main Street, 22-23 Empress Block, Second floor ; Home: 147 Carlton

1912 – June 18 – Major Bell obtains Canadian patent for a metal grain bin



240 kb



Dominion of Canada.

Number 141204

To all to whom these presents shall come

Whereas William Robert Bell,

of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada,

has petitioned the Commissioner of Patents, praying for the grant of a Patent for an alleged new and useful Improvement in Grain Tanks,

a description of which invention is contained in the specification of which a duplicate is hereunto attached and made an essential part hereof, and has declared his domicile at Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada, and has also complied with the other requirements of The Patent Act, Chap. 69 Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906.

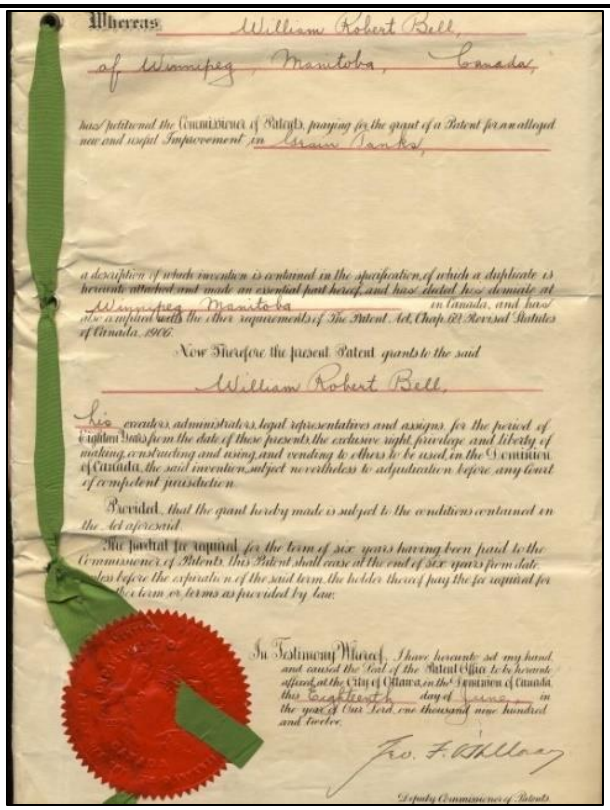
Now Therefore the present Patent grants to the said

William Robert Bell,

his executors, administrators, legal representatives and assigns, for the period of Eighteen Years from the date of these presents, the exclusive right, privilege and liberty of making, constructing and using, and vending to others to be used, in the Dominion of Canada, the said invention, subject nevertheless to adjudication before any Court of competent jurisdiction.

Provided, that the grant hereby made is subject to the conditions contained in the Act aforesaid.

The fee that is required for the term of six years having been paid to the Commissioner of Patents, this Patent shall cease at the end of six years from date, unless before the expiration of the said term the holder thereof pay the fee required for the further term or terms as provided by law.



Whereas William Robert Bell,

of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada,

has petitioned the Commissioner of Patents, praying for the grant of a Patent for an alleged new and useful Improvement in Grain Tanks,

a description of which invention is contained in the specification of which a duplicate is hereunto attached and made an essential part hereof, and has declared his domicile at Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada, and has also complied with the other requirements of The Patent Act, Chap. 69 Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906.

Now Therefore the present Patent grants to the said

William Robert Bell,

his executors, administrators, legal representatives and assigns, for the period of Eighteen Years from the date of these presents, the exclusive right, privilege and liberty of making, constructing and using, and vending to others to be used, in the Dominion of Canada, the said invention, subject nevertheless to adjudication before any Court of competent jurisdiction.

Provided, that the grant hereby made is subject to the conditions contained in the Act aforesaid.

The fee that is required for the term of six years having been paid to the Commissioner of Patents, this Patent shall cease at the end of six years from date, unless before the expiration of the said term the holder thereof pay the fee required for the further term or terms as provided by law.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Patent Office to be hereunto affixed, at the City of Ottawa, in the Dominion of Canada, this Eighteenth day of June, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twelve.

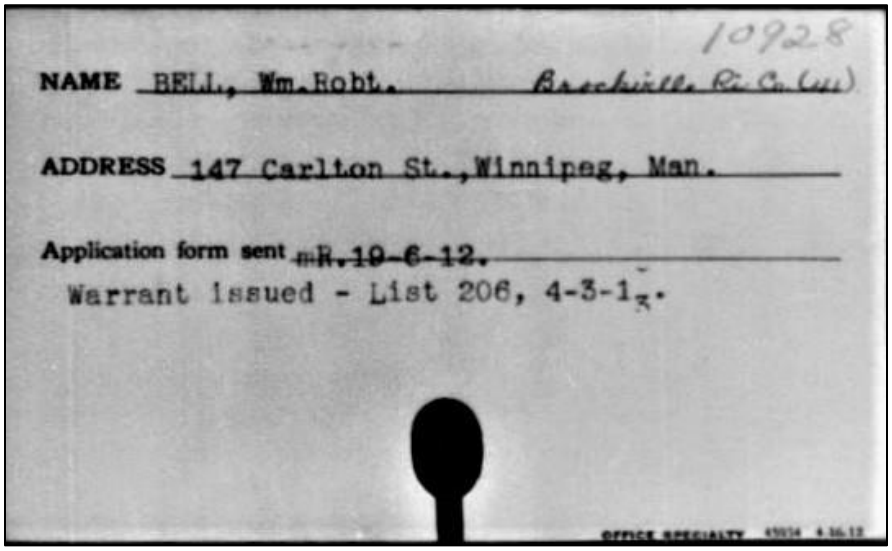
Jno. F. Hellmuth

Deputy Commissioner of Patents

146 kb 240 kb

1912 – June 19 – *Department of Militia and Defence: Fenian Raids pension records – 1867-1915, C-15721.* – Major Bell eligible for a one time $100 pension grant.

[Frank: In 1912 Major Bell applied for the one time $100 pension grant that he earned during the 1866 and 1870 Fenian Raids. This was approved and sent to him on March 4, 1913 – less than three weeks after he died in Winnipeg on Feb. 17, 1913. As his finances were somewhat strained at that time, I'm sure his widow appreciated receipt of the funds - which would have been worth about $3,000 in today's dollar value. (For details on his Fenian Raids medal, see 1866.)]



10928

NAME BELL, Wm. Robt. Brockville Rifle Co. (1st)

ADDRESS 147 Carlton St., Winnipeg, Man.

Application form sent ~~M.R.~~ 19-6-12.

Warrant issued - List 206, 4-3-1$_{2}$.

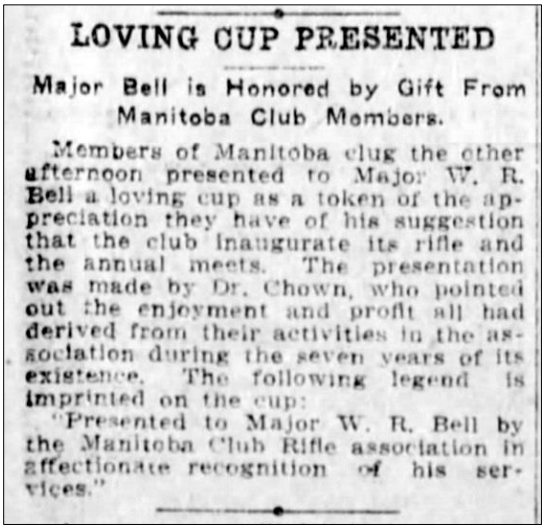
OFFICE SPECIALTY

Source: https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c15721/1557

1912 – June 21 – Winnipeg Tribune, p. 9 - Bell family off to the Beach

"Major W.R. Bell and family left last evening to take up residence at Winnipeg Beach for the summer months."

1912 – September 5 - *Winnipeg Tribune* , p. _ Manitoba Club Rifle Association presented Major Bell with a silver Loving Cup for long service recognition



LOVING CUP PRESENTED

Major Bell is Honored by Gift From Manitoba Club Members.

Members of Manitoba clug the other afternoon presented to Major W. R. Bell a loving cup as a token of the appreciation they have of his suggestion that the club inaugurate its rifle and the annual meets. The presentation was made by Dr. Chown, who pointed out the enjoyment and profit all had derived from their activities in the association during the seven years of its existence. The following legend is imprinted on the cup:

"Presented to Major W. R. Bell by the Manitoba Club Rifle association in affectionate recognition of his services."

238 kb

1912 – Sept. 5 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 6 – Major Bell awarded a Loving Cup

LOVING CUP FOR MAJOR W. R. BELL, FOUNDER MANITOBA CLUB RIFLE ASSOCIATION

A pleasing recognition of the services of Major W. R. Bell, who originated the idea of a Manitoba Club Rifle association, was made Tuesday afternoon, when the members of that organization presented him with beautiful sterling silver loving cup as a testimony of their appreciation. The presentation was made by Dr. Chown in the presence of large numbers of the most prominent members.

Dr. Chown stated that the association had been formed seven years, chiefly because of the untiring efforts of Major Bell, and that since its organization the association had no better or more enthusiastic friend than the officer who was responsible for its initiation. Major Bell replied in happy terms, dwelling largely in reminiscences.

The cup bears the following legend: "Presented to Major W. R. Bell by the Manitoba Club Rifle association in affectionate recognition of his services."

1912 – Nov. 2 – *Winnipeg Free Press*, p. 2 – McKay claims to have started "summer fallow" in 1885

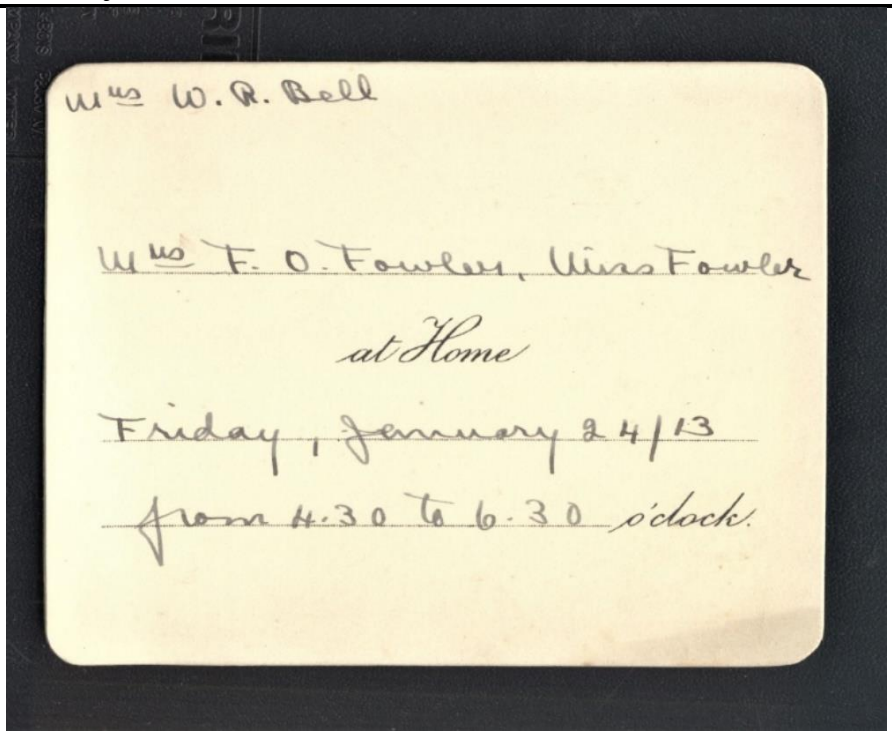
(see: 1883 – July 19 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press* – p, 5 – "The Bell Farm: Farming on a Large Scale" - based on a visit by the reporter on Saturday, 14 July, 1883. [first mention of "summer fallow" – part 5 of 6]) Numerous subsequent references to "summer fallow" in 1883, 1884 and 1885 – fully confirmed on June 19, 1885. Bell promoted summer fallowing well before McKay.

1913

1913 – Bell, W.R. "fin agt" (financial agent), Henderson's Directory for Winnipeg, p. 445, 726;

home: 147 Carlton.

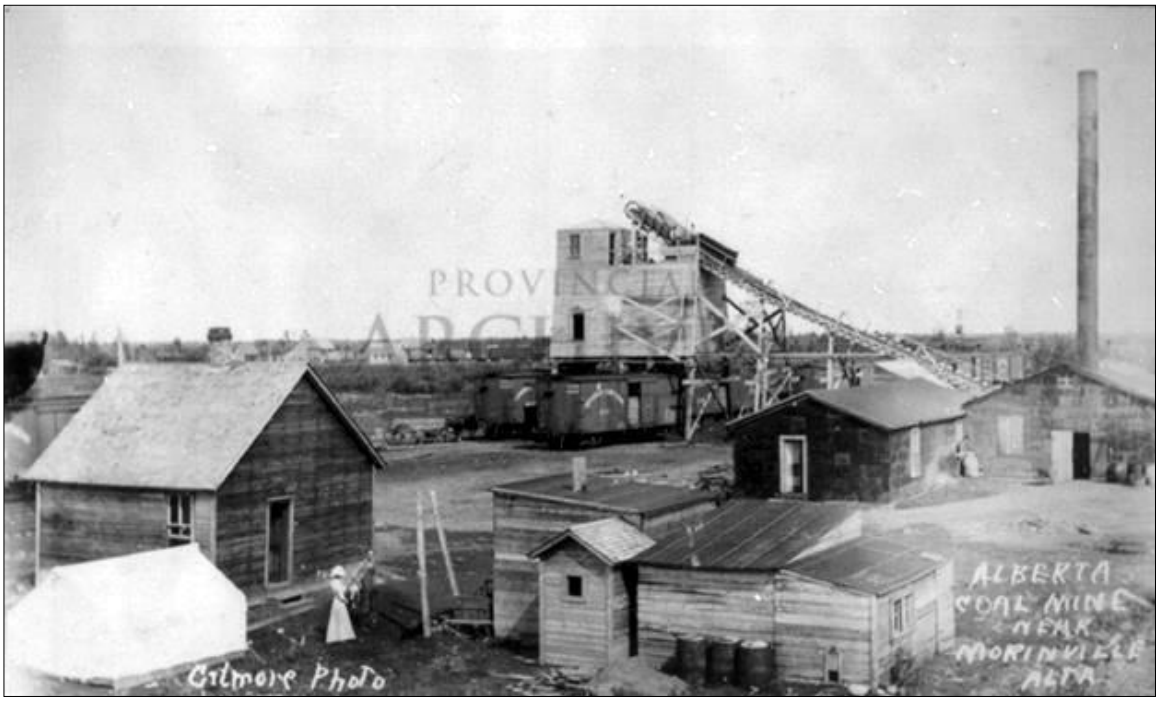
1913 – Jan. 24 – Calling Card # 3 – to Mrs. W.R. Bell from Mrs. W.O. Fowler & Miss Fowler – the last fully dated card in the Bell Family Collection at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.



596 kb

1913 - Feb. 17 - *The Winnipeg Tribune* - Death of Major Bell – check for details

The newspaper records that Major Bell "had been giving his attention to the Cardiff coal mines at Edmonton" at the time of his death.



34 kb

Cardiff Coal Mine, c. 1910 – Alberta Archives: A15478.

1913 – Feb. 17 – *Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1 - Major Bell dies in Winnipeg – Monday morning

MAJOR W. R. BELL, FENIAN VETERAN, IS DEAD IN CITY

One of Best-Known Residents of Western Canada Passes Away Unexpectedly After Illness of Six Months

Major William Robert Bell died this morning at 4.30 at his home at 147 Carleton street after an illness extending over some six months. Although he had been under medical care for that period, death came unexpectedly. Indeed, it was entirely unanticipated by some of his closest friends, and it was with the greatest surprise they heard the sad news. It was a shock to the business community for no one was better known in the city than the gentleman whose life and career had been so typical of the progressive spirit that has developed and is developing Western Canada.

No arrangements have been made for the funeral pending word being received from the deceased's sister, Miss Bell, who resides at Brockville, Ont., but is at present visiting at Vancouver.

Military Service

Major Bell, who was born at Brockville some seventy years ago, spent the earlier years of his life in the western United States, but returned to Canada at the outbreak of the first Fenian trouble to serve in the defence of his country. He saw service with the 41st Regiment, retiring with the rank of major in 1878. He obtained medals for the Fenian raids in 1866 and 1870, as well as the general service medal with two clasps. He also was a member of the first Canadian team that took part in the Wimbledon rifle competition.

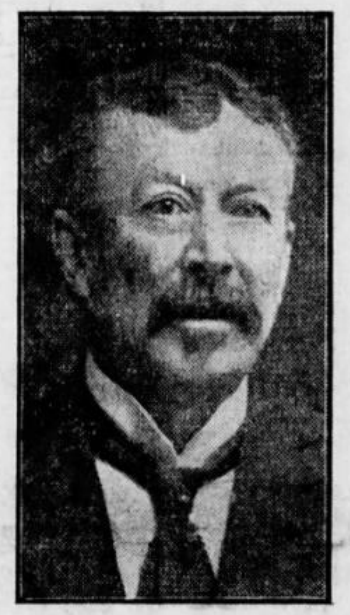
But he was even better known for his experimental farming operations at Indian Head, Sask., where he settled on leaving the army. The Bell farm of 1600 had a world-wide reputation and although he was not as successful as the courage behind it and the scientific character of the experiment merited it was simply as a gentleman speaking of it today put it, because he was ahead of the time. It at any rate, placed Major Bell in the forefront rank of the world's enterprising agriculturists and his experimental work was advertized broadcast by the C.P.R.

Business Career

Major Bell also originated the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming society and other affiliated enterprises in 1882 and the following year he unsuccessfully contested Qu'Appelle for the North-

(Continued on Page Eleven)

PIONEER HAS PASSED AWAY



Major William R. Bell who died this morning

EARL GEAY PAYS WARM TRIBUTE TO NEW ZEALAND

Makes Reference to Presentation of Dreadnaught at Canadian Club Luncheon in London

London, Feb. 17. (C.A.P.)—Earl Grey spoke eloquently today at the Canadian Club luncheon given in honor of Hon. H. J. Allen, New Zealand minister of finance and defense, saying in part: "The whole empire is thrilled that New Zealand, with a population less than half that of the province of Quebec, offers a Dreadnought to the empire. This reveals to the whole world the power of the overseas dominions in assisting the United Kingdom in safeguarding the empire. Men of British descent all over the world welcome New Zealand as partner in the great work of maintaining the empire."

The chairman of the Royal Gr...

Major W. R. Bell

(Continued from Page One)

west council in the Conservative interest. He was president of the board of trade at Indian Head in 1893.

Subsequently he came to reside in Winnipeg which he had been more or less closely associated since he had made the west a home. His business was that of a financial agent and promoter and lately he had been giving his attention to the Cardiff coal mines at Edmonton, which promise to develop into a most valuable property.

In addition to the sister mentioned, Major Bell is survived by his widow and four small children. His first wife was a daughter of James C. Elwood, of Brockville. On March 31, 1897 he married Miss Ormiston, of London, England.

Well Known, Well Liked

One of the best known men in Western Canada, Major Bell's death will leave a blank in the circle of the pioneers of the country that will be hard to fill. He filled to the life the dual role of soldier and alert and progressive business man, material from which has sprung the vitalizing energy of the west.

Prominent in business, social and military life, during his residence in Winnipeg, he did not take an active part in either politics or municipal affairs.

"But," to quote the tribute of H. T. Champion, one of his many personal friends, "he was intensely liked. A man of indomitable courage, pluck and energy, he was able to pull himself through where others would have fallen by the wayside."

Such, in a sentence, indicates the calibre and gives a bird's-eye view of the character of the man Winnipeg mourns.

Oldtimer's Tribute

"Probably no private citizen in the history of the West did more to draw attention to the agricultural possibilities of the country than the late Major Bell," said an old-timer this morning.

"I remember visiting the famous Bell farm at Indian Head about twenty-five years ago. The West was then in its [illegible] infancy. The newspapers of Canada and the Old Land were continually commenting on the gigantic operations of the Bell farm. It was a test of wholesale farming, and the trial, in a measure, demonstrated that the huge farm cannot be as profitably operated as the small one.

His Largness of Vision

"However, the Bell farm was an indication of the major's largeness of vision. He took a great grip of the project, and against all the drawbacks of the early days did as well as any man could under the circumstances. He was a man of splendid geniality, and had hosts of friends all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was a rare pleasure to engage him in conversation on the early days."

157 kb

83 kb

1913 – Feb. 17 – *Medicine Hat News*, p. 1 – Death of Major Bell – includes Monte Carlo reference – many factual errors

MAJOR BELL, NOTED ACRICOLTURIST AND PIONEER DIED TO-DAY

Founder of Famous Bell Farms and Transport Officer in Rebellion of 1885.

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 17.—Major W. R. Bell, rifleman, agriculturist and transport officer, died at three o'clock this morning. Though very active and apparently quite hale and strong, he was actually suffering from a fatal illness for over a year. The funeral, it is expected, will take place Thursday, which will enable Pacific coast relatives to be present. Major Bell was one of the best known characters in the west, having started in the early eighties farming on an extensive scale at Indian Head, Qu' Appelle, Balgonie, Long Lake and other central Saskatchewan points. Altogether this enterprise in the pioneer day of the Canadian Pacific railway embraced some fifty thousand acres of which most was bought for a dollar an acre from the railways and the Hudson Bay Company and little of which is worth now less than forty dollars an acre. Included was the site of the present thriving town of Indian Head. Remarkable, however, as was the prescience Major Bell exhibited in this project he was not fited by training or habit of mind to bring it to a successful conclusion.

The farms were made the dumping ground for young Englishmen long in birth but short in agricultural knowledge and the extravagent and hap hazard scale on which they were worked, foredoomed failure, so that it was not long before the enterprize went to pieces.

The great tracts of land were subdivided among small holders. He was a noted trap shot and in his palmy days a well-known figure in Monte Carlo, where he spent his winters.

In the rebellion of 1885 he had charge of the transport under Sir Frederick Middleton and at the close of the rebellion was highly complimented by Sir Freedrick in person for the splendid way in which he had carried through his duties. He had a life long interest in all matters pertaining to the service and needless to say was a staunch Imperialist.

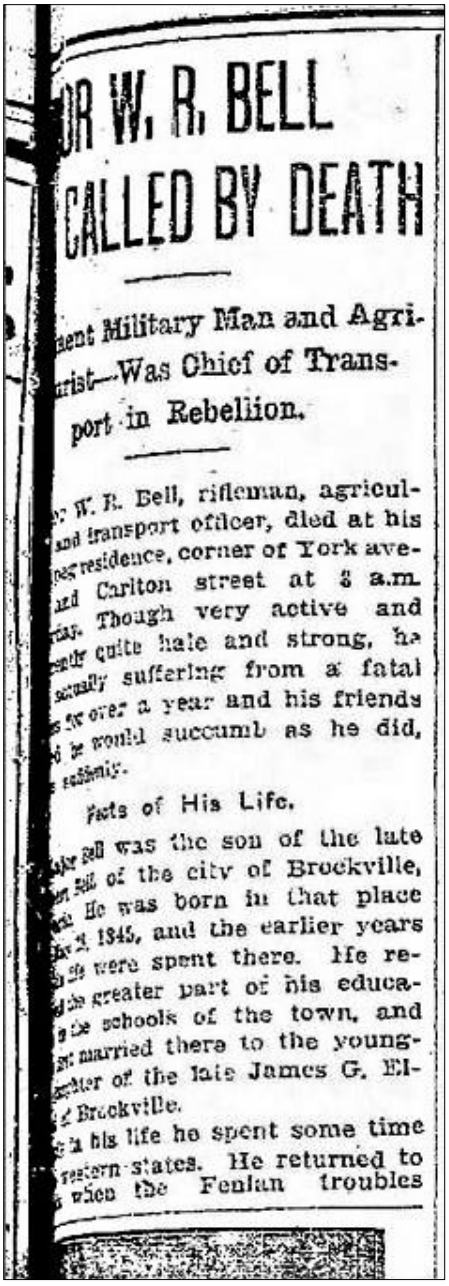
Part 1 107 kb

Part 2 104 kb

1913 – Feb. 18 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 1 – Announcement of Major Bell's Death

"WORLD NEWS SUMMARY – Major W.R. Bell, prominent military man, and agriculturalist, dead. Page 5."

1913 – Feb. 18 - *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 5 – Major W.R. Bell Called By Death – get better copy of parts 1 to 4



OR W. R. BELL
CALLED BY DEATH

ent Military Man and Agri-
rist—Was Chief of Trans-
port in Rebellion.

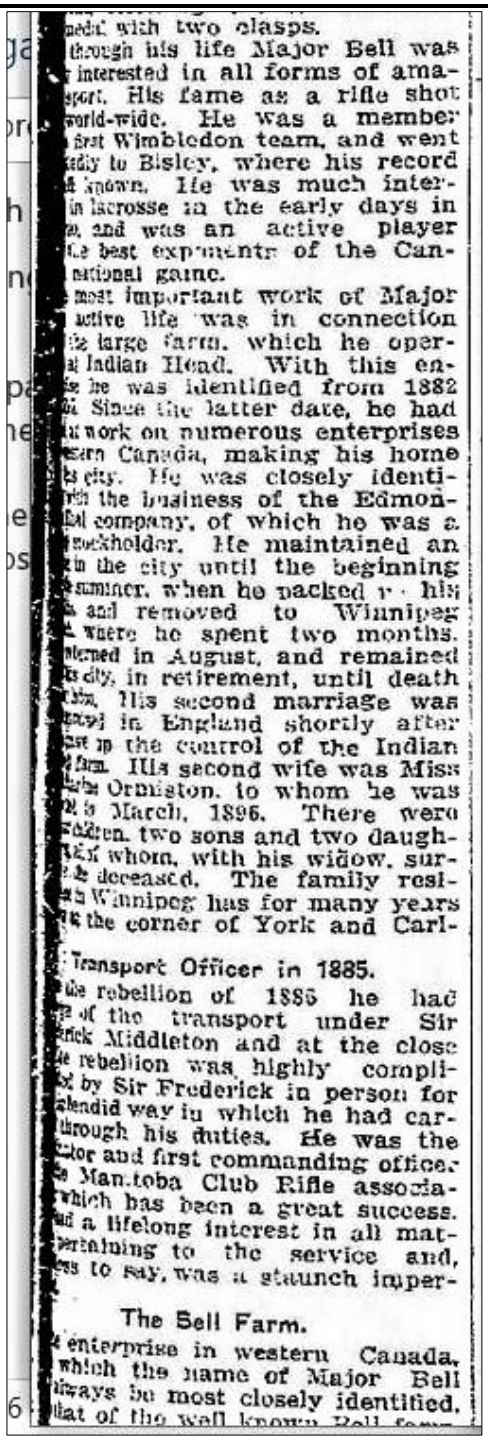
W. R. Bell, rifleman, agricul-
and transport officer, died at his
residence, corner of York ave-
and Carlton street at 3 a.m.
Though very active and
quite hale and strong, he
ally suffering from a fatal
over a year and his friends
he would succumb as he did,
sudden.

Facts of His Life.

Bell was the son of the late
Bell of the city of Brockville,
He was born in that place
1845, and the earlier years
were spent there. He re-
the greater part of his educa-
the schools of the town, and
married there to the young-
ter of the late James G. El-
Brockville.
his life he spent some time
western states. He returned to
when the Fenian troubles

ATE MAJOR W. R. BELL,
of Bell Farm, Indian Head,
Prominent in Military Circles in
tern Canada for Thirty Years.

out, to take part in the defence
native province. He was en-
in military service in the affairs
8 and 1870, and received the
issued on these occasions. He
d in 1875 as major of the 41st
at, receiving the general ser-
medal with two clasps.
Through his life Major Bell was



medal with two clasps.
Through his life Major Bell was
interested in all forms of ama-
sport. His fame as a rifle shot
world-wide. He was a member
first Wimbledon team, and went
dily to Bisley, where his record
known. He was much inter-
in lacrosse in the early days in
, and was an active player
the best exponents of the Can-
national game.
most important work of Major
active life was in connection
large farm, which he oper-
Indian Head. With this en-
he was identified from 1882
Since the latter date, he had
work on numerous enterprises
ern Canada, making his home
city. He was closely identi-
with the business of the Edmon-
al company, of which he was a
stockholder. He maintained an
in the city until the beginning
summer, when he packed up his
and removed to Winnipeg
where he spent two months.
turned in August, and remained
city, in retirement, until death
him. His second marriage was
ated in England shortly after
up the control of the Indian
farm. His second wife was Miss
Barbe Ormiston, to whom he was
on 5 March, 1896. There were
children, two sons and two daugh-
of whom, with his widow, sur-
the deceased. The family resi-
in Winnipeg has for many years
on the corner of York and Carl-

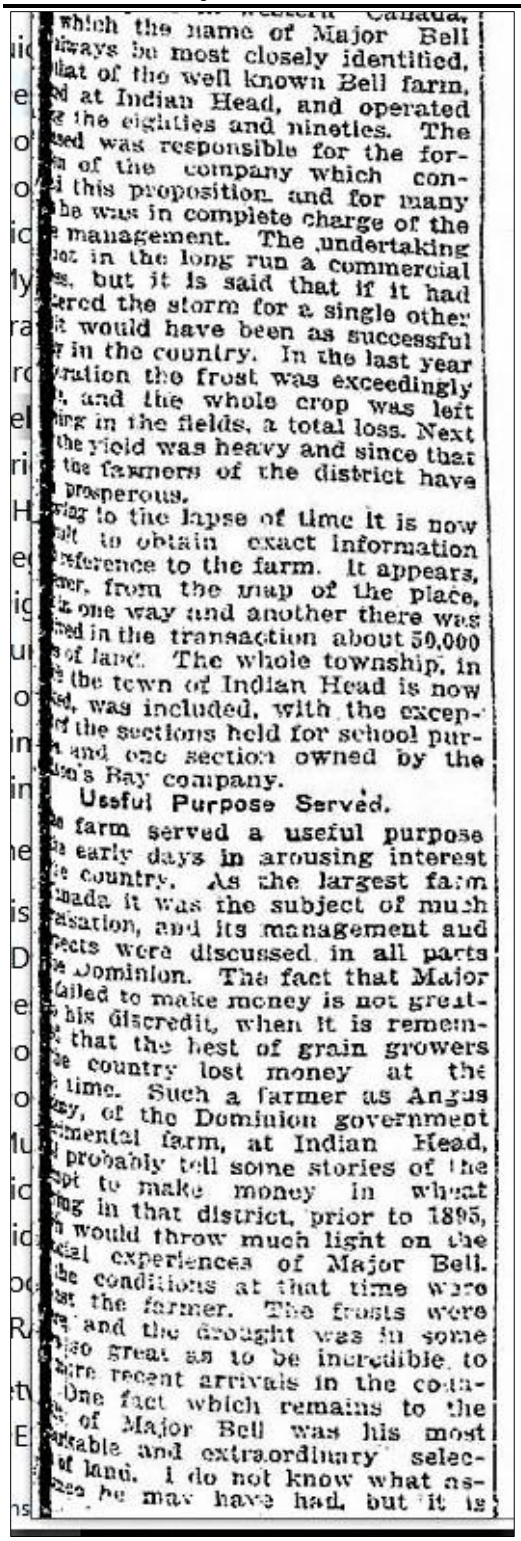
Transport Officer in 1885.

the rebellion of 1885 he had
of the transport under Sir
rick Middleton and at the close
the rebellion was highly compli-
ed by Sir Frederick in person for
splendid way in which he had car-
through his duties. He was the
ctor and first commanding officer
the Manitoba Club Rifle associa-
which has been a great success.
had a lifelong interest in all mat-
pertaining to the service and,
ss to say, was a staunch imper-

The Bell Farm.

enterprise in western Canada,
which the name of Major Bell
always be most closely identified,
that of the well known Bell farm

Part 1 114 kb Part 2 130 kb Part 3 156 kb



which the name of Major Bell always be most closely identified, that of the well known Bell farm, ed at Indian Head, and operated the eighties and nineties. The ed was responsible for the for- of the company which con- this proposition and for many he was in complete charge of the management. The undertaking not in the long run a commercial s, but it is said that if it had ered the storm for a single other it would have been as successful in the country. In the last year ration the frost was exceedingly and the whole crop was left ng in the fields, a total loss. Next the yield was heavy and since that the farmers of the district have prosperous.

ing to the lapse of time it is now lt to obtain exact information ference to the farm. It appears, ver, from the map of the place, in one way and another there was ed in the transaction about 50,000 of land. The whole township, in the town of Indian Head is now d, was included, with the excep- f the sections held for school pur- and one section owned by the on's Bay company.

Useful Purpose Served.

farm served a useful purpose early days in arousing interest e country. As the largest farm ada it was the subject of much sation, and its management and ects were discussed in all parts e Dominion. The fact that Major iled to make money is not great- his discredit, when it is remem- that the best of grain growers e country lost money at the time. Such a farmer as Angus y, of the Dominion government mental farm, at Indian Head, probably tell some stories of the pt to make money in wheat ng in that district, prior to 1895, would throw much light on the cial experiences of Major Bell. he conditions at that time were t the farmer. The frosts were and the drought was in some so great as to be incredible to ire recent arrivals in the coun- One fact which remains to the of Major Bell was his most rsable and extraordinary selec- of land. I do not know what as- he may have had, but it is singular, that so early in the history of the country he made choice of a district which time has shown to be equal to the best in the prairie provinces. There was inferior land on both sides of him in the district, but he avoided this, and obtained a farm which could scarcely be bettered, so far as the general fertility of the soil is concerned, at the present day.

Associates in the Enterprise.

Among those who were closely associated with Major Bell in the farm purchase were W. L. Boyle and W. R. Bruxton. Mr. Boyle was a member of the firm of McArthur, Boyle and Campbell. Mr. McArthur was afterward the head of the Commercial Bank in this city. Mr. Boyle is still living, and is engaged in business as a private banker on Wall street in New York city. Mr. Bruxton was an English financier, who did not spend much time in this city. Lord Brassey was very closely identified with the undertaking and eventually became the owner of much of the land. His lordship took a paternal interest in the district. His plan was to settle colonists from England on the farm and to aid them to self-support. He erected the Anglican church in the town, built a residence for the clergy and provided a portion of the money necessary for maintenance. He induced Bishop Burns to remove the head of the diocese from Qu'Appelle to Indian Head, and supplied a permanent fund for the support of the diocese. Major Bell was always held in very high esteem by the men who were associated with him in his enterprises. He was a man of great organizing ability, and all his friends state that he had remarkable power in convincing those whom he met of the feasibility of his projects.

The funeral of Major Bell will be held Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock from his late residence, 147 Carlton street, to Elmwood cemetery.

Part 4 168 kb Part 5 166 kb

1913 – Feb. 18 – *Winnipeg Tribune,* p. 12 – Death of Major Bell – check for details

1913 – Feb. 18 – *Victoria Daily Times,* p. 2 - Major Bell Dead

"**MAJOR BELL DEAD.** Winnipeg, Man. Feb. 18 – Major W.R. Bell, rifleman, agriculturalist and transport officer, died at 3 o'clock yesterday Morning. Though active and apparently quite

hale and strong, he was actually suffering from a fatal illness for over a year. The funeral, it is expected , will take place Thursday which will enable Pacific Coast relatives to be present."

1913 – Feb. 18 – *The Daily Colonist, Victoria, B.C.* , p. 18 – Death of Major Bell – [FRANK's NOTE; this article is full of erroneous information – one of the worst I have seen.]

DEATH OF MAJOR W. R. BELL

Former Manager of Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, Passes Away at Winnipeg

WINNIPEG, Man., Feb. 17.—Major W. R. Bell, rifleman, agriculturist and transport officer died here at 3 o'clock this morning. Though very active, and apparently quite hale and strong, he had actually been suffering from a fatal illness for over a year. The funeral will take place on Thursday, which will enable Pacific Coast relatives to be present.

Major Bell was one of the best known characters in the West. He started farming in the early 'eighties on an extensive scale at Indian Head, Qu'Ap-

pelle, Balgonie, Long Lake and other central Saskatchewan points. Altogether this enterprise in the pioneer days of the C. P. R. embraced some fifty thousand acres of land which was bought for a dollar an acre from the railway and the Hudson's Bay Co., and little of which is now less than $40 an acre.

Remarkable, however, as was the prescience of Major Bell exhibited in this project, he was not fitted by training or habit of mind to become successful. The farms were made the dumping ground for young Englishmen, with no agricultural knowledge, and the extravagant scale on which they were worked foredoomed failure so that it was not long before the enterprise fell to pieces and the great tracks of land were subdivided among small holders.

Major Bell, who was at that time farming in Minnesota, came to Winnipeg before the first boom and organized the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company with the aid of British capital, but he was forced out in 1895, providing the most notable instance of land poverty in the history of the West. He was a noted trap shot, and in his palmy days a well-known figure at Monte Carlo, where he spent his Winters. He played an important part as transport officer during the rebellion of 1885. Major Bell, who was born at Brockville, Ont., in 1846, spent the earlier years of his life in the Western United States, but turned to Canada at the outbreak of the first Fenian trouble to serve in the defence of his country. He saw service with the Forty-First Regiment, retiring with the rank of Major in 1875. He obtained medals for the Fenian Raids in 1866 and 1870, as well as the general service medal with two clasps. He also was a member of the first Canadian team that took part in the Wimbledon Rifle competition.

70 kb 106 kb

1913 – Feb. 18 – *Regina Leader*, p. 6 – Death of Major Bell – (identical of *Edmonton Bulletin* article) – seems to have been written in Winnipeg; some biographical details wrong (e.g. first wife: Katharine; second wife: Catherine, second marriage was 31 March 1897, not March 1896)

MAJOR BELL DEAD; FOUNDED BELL FARM

WELL KNWON FIGURE IN WESTERN CANADA DIES AT AGE OF 68

Major W. R. Bell, founder of Bell Farm at Indian Head in the early 80's, and prominent as transportation officer in the '85 rebellion, and well known in Eastern Canada, died yesterday at the age of 68.

Major Bell was the son of the late Robert Bell, of the city of Brockville, Ont. He was born in that place on May 28, 1845, and the earlier years of his life were spent there. He received the greater part of his education in the schools of that town and was first married there to the younger daughter of the late James G. Elwood, of Brockville.

Early in his life he spent some time in the Western States. He returned to Canada when the Fenian troubles broke out to take part in the defense of his native province. He was engaged in military service in the affairs of 1866 and 1870, and received the medals issued on these occasions. He retired in 1875 as Major of the 41st Regiment, receiving the general service medal with two clasps.

Amateur Sports.

All through his life Major Bell was deeply interested in all forms of amateur sports. His fame as a rifle shot was world-wide. He was a member of the first Wimbledon team and went repeatedly to Bisley, where his record is well known. He was much interested in lacrosse in the early days in Ontario, and was an active player with the best exponents of the Canadian national game.

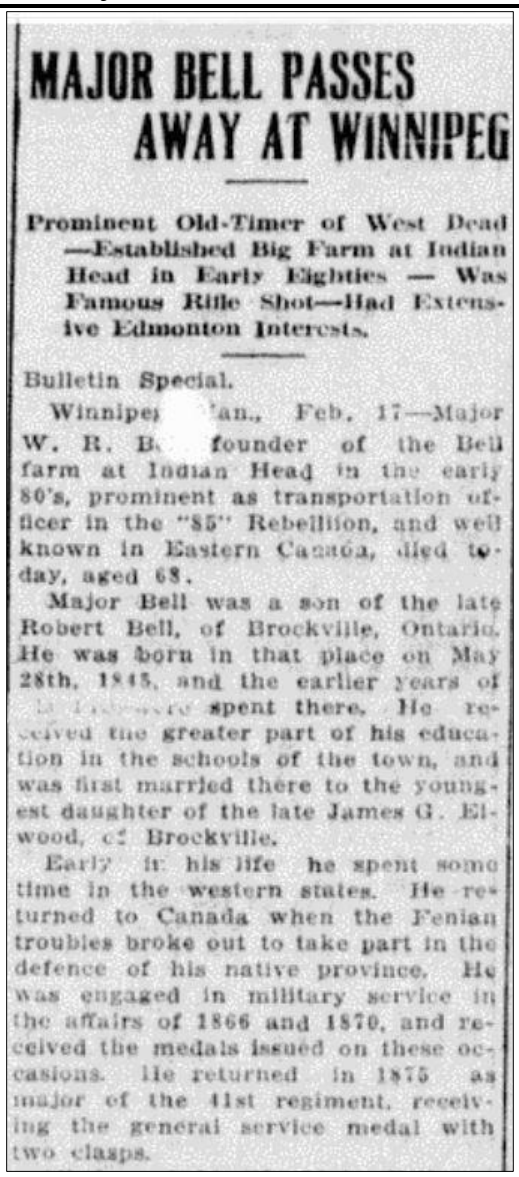
His Farm.

The most important work of Major Bell's active life was in connection with the large farm which he operated at Indian Head. With this enterprise he was identified from 1882 to 1895. Since the latter date he has been at work on numerous enterprises in Western Canada, making his home in this city. He was closely identified with the business of the Edmonton Coal Company, of which he was a large stock-holder. He maintained an office in the city until the beginning of the summer, when he packed up his effects and removed to Winnipeg Beach where he spent two months. He returned in August and remained in this city in retirement until death took him.

His second marriage was solemnized in England shortly after he gave up the control of the Indian Head farm. His second wife was Miss Katharine Ormiston, to whom he was married in March, 1896. There were four children, two sons and two daughters, all of whom, with his widow, survive the deceased. The family residence in Winnipeg has for many years been at the corner of York and Carlton.

85 & 117 kb

1913 – Feb. 18 – *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 10 – Major Bell Passes Away at Winnipeg



MAJOR BELL PASSES AWAY AT WINNIPEG

Prominent Old-Timer of West Dead —Established Big Farm at Indian Head in Early Eighties — Was Famous Rifle Shot—Had Extensive Edmonton Interests.

Bulletin Special.

Winnipeg Jan., Feb. 17—Major W. R. B. founder of the Bell farm at Indian Head in the early 80's, prominent as transportation officer in the "85" Rebellion, and well known in Eastern Canada, died today, aged 68.

Major Bell was a son of the late Robert Bell, of Brockville, Ontario. He was born in that place on May 28th, 1845, and the earlier years of [illegible] spent there. He received the greater part of his education in the schools of the town, and was first married there to the youngest daughter of the late James G. Elwood, of Brockville.

Early in his life he spent some time in the western states. He returned to Canada when the Fenian troubles broke out to take part in the defence of his native province. He was engaged in military service in the affairs of 1866 and 1870, and received the medals issued on these occasions. He returned in 1875 as major of the 41st regiment, receiving the general service medal with two clasps.

All through his life, Major Bell was deeply interested in all forms of amateur sports. His fame as a rifle shot was world wide. He was a member of the first Wimbledon team and went repeatedly to Bisley where his record is well known. He was much interested in lacrosse in the early days in Ontario, and was an active player with the best exponents of the Canadian national game.

The most important work of Major Bell's active life, was in connection with the large farm which he operated at Indian Head. With this enterprise he was identified from 1882 to 1895. Since the latter date he has been at work on numerous enterprises in Western Canada, making his home in this city. He was closely identified with the business of the Edmonton Coal company, of which he was a large stock holder. He maintained an office in the city until the beginning of the summer when he packed up his effects and removed to Winnipeg beach, where he spent two months. He returned in August and remained in this city in retirement until death took him.

His second marriage was solemnized in England shortly after he gave up the control of the Indian Head farm. His second wife was Miss Katharine Ormiston, to whom he was united in March, 1895. There were four children, two sons and two daughters, all of whom with his wife, survive the deceased. The family residence in Winnipeg has for many years been at the corner of Cork and Carlton.

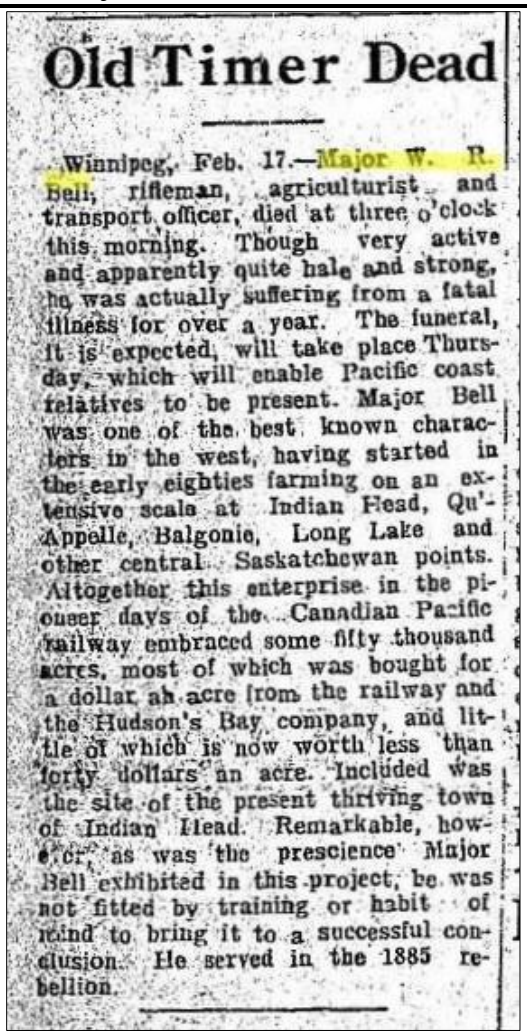
75 & 73 kb

1913 – Feb. 18 – *The Toronto World*, p. 6 – Death of Major Bell – several errors

"MAJ. BELL DEAD AT WINNIPEG.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 17 – (Can. Press.) - Major W.R. Bell, rifleman, agriculturist, and transport office, died at 3 o'clock this afternoon, aged 67. Tho very active and apparently quite hale and hearty, he was suffering from a fatal illness for over a year. Major Bell was one of the best known characters in the west, having started in the early eighties farming about 50,000 acres at Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Balgonie, Long Lake, and other central Saskatchewan points. He was born at Brockville, Ont., in 1846."

1913 – Feb. 19 – *Lethbridge Herald*, p. 8 – Death of Major Bell



Old Timer Dead

Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—Major W. R. Bell, rifleman, agriculturist and transport officer, died at three o'clock this morning. Though very active and apparently quite hale and strong, he was actually suffering from a fatal illness for over a year. The funeral, it is expected, will take place Thursday, which will enable Pacific coast relatives to be present. Major Bell was one of the best known characters in the west, having started in the early eighties farming on an extensive scale at Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Balgonie, Long Lake and other central Saskatchewan points. Altogether this enterprise in the pioneer days of the Canadian Pacific railway embraced some fifty thousand acres, most of which was bought for a dollar an acre from the railway and the Hudson's Bay company, and little of which is now worth less than forty dollars an acre. Included was the site of the present thriving town of Indian Head. Remarkable, however, as was the prescience Major Bell exhibited in this project, he was not fitted by training or habit of mind to bring it to a successful conclusion. He served in the 1885 rebellion.

128 kb

1913 – Feb. 19 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 16 – Death and Funeral Notice for Major Bell [Note: age should be 67, not 57.]

DEATHS.

ROBLIN—On 18th inst., at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. McKlechan, 208 Oxford street, Emily Wilson Roblin, aged 82 years, 1 month, and 3 days. Funeral service will be held at the above address on Thursday, the 20th inst., at 2:30. Interment at St. Johns cemetery.

YOUNG—On the 17th inst., at the Winnipeg General hospital, after an operation for appendicitis, Roy J., son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Young, aged 21 years, 8 months and 7 days. Funeral service will be held at the parents' residence, 671 Balmoral street, this afternoon (Wednesday) at 2:30. Interment Woodside cemetery. 196-1

BELL—On Feb. 17, Major W. R. Bell, age 57 years. Funeral from 147 Carlton st., 3 p.m. Wednesday. By his special request, no flowers. 195-2

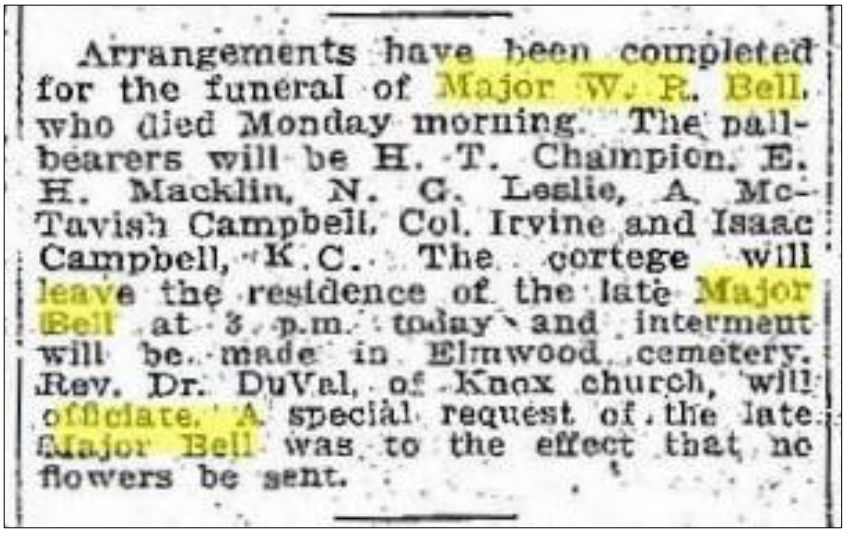
GOOD—The funeral of Kate Good, wife of Simon Good, took place yesterday from 459 College avenue to Kildonan cemetery, and was attended by a large number of friends and a deputation of Eny-Brinth. The service was conducted by the Rev. Millman. 195-1

LOWRIE—At Ottawa, on Sunday the 16th instant, Alfred Lowrie, of Vars, Ont., brother of Mrs. A. K. Leith of this city 196-1

McNEIL—At 889 McMillan, on Sunday, Feb. 16th, James Hugh, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. James McNeil. 196-1

180 kb

1913 – Feb. 19 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 13 – Funeral Arrangements for Major Bell



Arrangements have been completed for the funeral of Major W. R. Bell, who died Monday morning. The pallbearers will be H. T. Champion, E. H. Macklin, N. G. Leslie, A. McTavish Campbell, Col. Irvine and Isaac Campbell, K.C. The cortege will leave the residence of the late Major Bell at 3 p.m. today and interment will be made in Elmwood cemetery. Rev. Dr. DuVal, of Knox church, will officiate. A special request of the late Major Bell was to the effect that no flowers be sent.

65 kb

1913 – Feb. 19 – Following a funeral at Knox Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg, Major Bell is buried in Winnipeg's Elmwood Cemetery.

"**SIMPLE FUNERAL OF MAJOR W.R. BELL – Service Conducted at Family Residence by Rev. Dr. Du Val – Interment in Elmwood Cemetery.**

Beautiful in its simplicity was funeral service conducted over the remains of Major W.R. Bell at his former residence, 147 Carlton street, yesterday afternoon. The service, without music and without eulogy, consisted of a reading from the scriptures by Rev. Dr. Du Val, of Knox Presbyterian church, which was followed by an impressive prayer.

After the services, friends of the deceased present filed slowly past the open coffin, after which the funeral cortege proceeded to Elmwood Cemetery, where interment was made. The pallbearers were H.T. Champion, E.H. Macklin, N.C. Leslie, Col. Irvine, A. McTavish Campbell and Isaac Campbell, K.C. In accordance with the expressed wish of the late Major Bell, no flowers were sent."

1913 – Feb. 19 (?) - No source – Burial of Major Bell

"**Remains of the Late Major Bell Laid to Rest By Old Friends -**

The funeral of the late Major Bell, who died on Monday morning, was held yesterday afternoon from the family residence, 147 Carlton street. Interment took place in Elmwood cemetery. The services at the house and later at the graveside, were conducted by Rev. Dr. Duval, and were largely attended by a host of friends and acquaintances who paid their last respects to the pioneer sportsman and well-known citizen in a manner showing the deep loss which they felt they had sustained. The pallbearers, all old and close friends of the deceased, were: Colonel Irwin, Norman Leslie, D.H. Macklin, A.M. Campbell, Isaac Campbell, K.C., and H.T. Champion."

1913 – Feb. 20 – *Weston Times and Guide*, p. 3 – Death of Major Bell

"Major W.R. Bell, an agriculturalist and officer, well known in the west, died at Winnipeg on Monday."

1913 – Feb. 20 – *Agassiz Record,* p. 16- Death of Major Bell [Similar content to Victoria's *Daily Colonist* – including many errors.]

MAJOR W. BELL, FAMOUS CANADIAN, IS DEAD

STARTED GREAT FARMING ENTERPRISE NEAR INDIAN HEAD IN EARLY DAYS, AND FAILED.

Winnipeg, Feb. 17.—Major W. R. Bell, rifleman, agriculturist and transport officer, died at three o'clock this morning. Though ver, active and appalently quite hale and strong, he was actually suffering from a fatal illness for over a year.

Major Bell was one of the best known characters in the west, having started in the early eighties farming on an extensive scale at Indian Head, Qu'Appelle, Balgonie, Long Lake and other central Saskatchewan points. Altogether this enterprise in the pioneer days of the Canadian Pacific railway embraced some fifty thousand acres, most of which was bought for a dollar an acre from the railway and the Hudson's Bay company, and little of which is now worth less, than forty dollars an acre, and included was he site of the present thriving town of Indian Head. Remarkable, however, as was his prescience Major Bell exhibited in this project, he was not fitted by training or habit of mind to bring it to a successful conclusion. The farms were made the dumping ground for young Englishmen, old in family but young in agricultural knowledge, and the extravagant and haphazard scale on which they worked foredoomed failure, so that it was not long before the enterprise fell to pieces and the great tracts of land were subdivided among small holders.

1913 – Feb. 20 – *Manitoba Free Press,* p. 3 – Simple Funeral of W.R. Major Bell

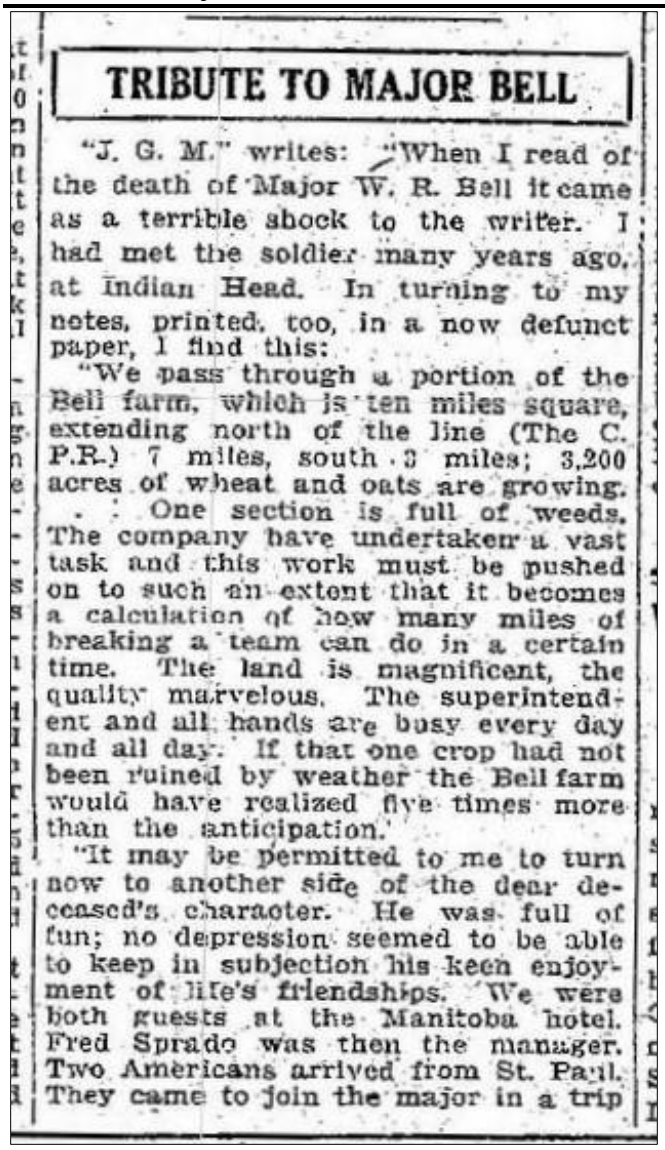
SIMPLE FUNERAL OF MAJOR W. R. BELL

Service Conducted at Family Residence by Rev. Dr. Du Val—Interment in Elmwood Cemetery.

Beautiful in its simplicity was funeral service conducted over the remains of Major W. R. Bell at his former residence, 147 Carlton street, yesterday afternoon. The service, without music and without eulogy, consisted of a reading from the scriptures by Rev. Dr. Du-Val, of Knox Presbyterian church, which was followed by an impressive prayer.

After the services friends of the deceased present filed slowly past the open coffin, after which the funeral cortege proceeded to Elmwood cemetery, where interment was made. The pall-bearers were H. T. Champion, E. H. Macklin, N. G. Leslie, Col. Irvine, A. McTaish Campbell and Isaac Campbell, K.C. In accordance with the expressed wish of the late Major Bell no flowers were sent.

1913 – Feb. 20 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 11 – Tribute to Major Bell



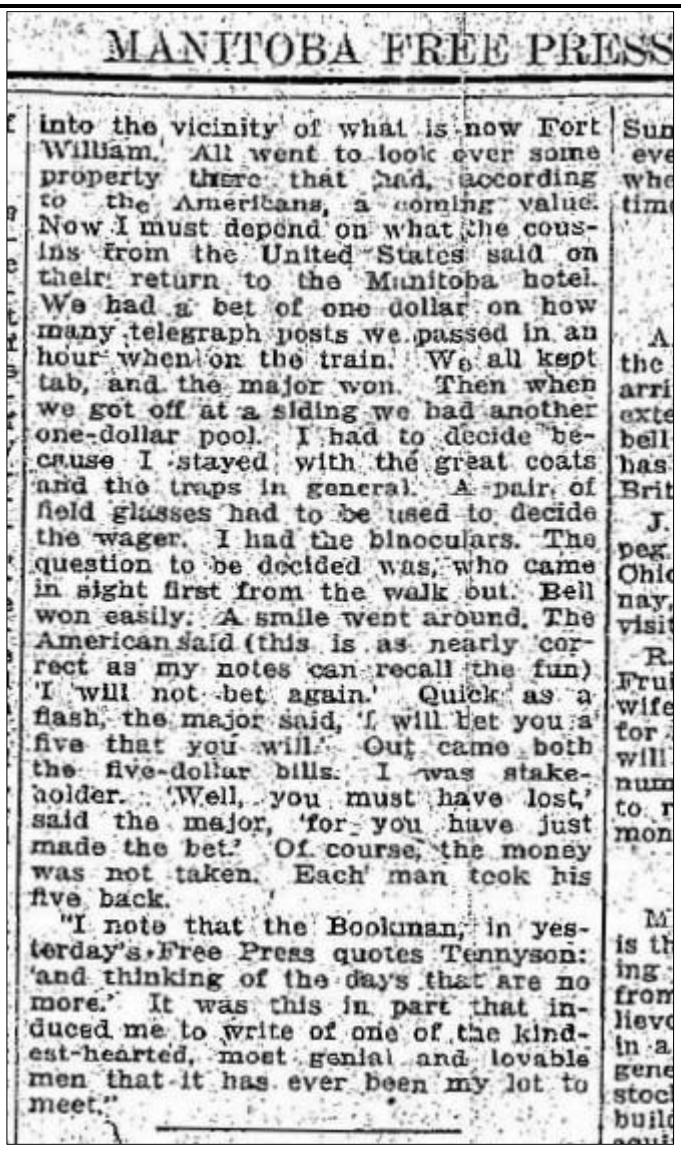
TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BELL

"J. G. M." writes: "When I read of the death of Major W. R. Bell it came as a terrible shock to the writer. I had met the soldier many years ago, at Indian Head. In turning to my notes, printed, too, in a now defunct paper, I find this:

"We pass through a portion of the Bell farm, which is ten miles square, extending north of the line (The C. P.R.) 7 miles, south 3 miles; 3,200 acres of wheat and oats are growing. . . One section is full of weeds. The company have undertaken a vast task and this work must be pushed on to such an extent that it becomes a calculation of how many miles of breaking a team can do in a certain time. The land is magnificent, the quality marvelous. The superintendent and all hands are busy every day and all day. If that one crop had not been ruined by weather the Bell farm would have realized five times more than the anticipation.'

"It may be permitted to me to turn now to another side of the dear deceased's character. He was full of fun; no depression seemed to be able to keep in subjection his keen enjoyment of life's friendships. We were both guests at the Manitoba hotel. Fred Sprado was then the manager. Two Americans arrived from St. Paul. They came to join the major in a trip

357 kb



MANITOBA FREE PRESS

into the vicinity of what is now Fort William. All went to look over some property there that had, according to the Americans, a coming value. Now I must depend on what the cousins from the United States said on their return to the Manitoba hotel. We had a bet of one dollar on how many telegraph posts we passed in an hour when on the train. We all kept tab, and the major won. Then when we got off at a siding we had another one-dollar pool. I had to decide because I stayed with the great coats and the traps in general. A pair of field glasses had to be used to decide the wager. I had the binoculars. The question to be decided was, who came in sight first from the walk out. Bell won easily. A smile went around. The American said (this is as nearly correct as my notes can recall the fun) 'I will not bet again.' Quick as a flash, the major said, 'I will bet you a five that you will.' Out came both the five-dollar bills. I was stakeholder. 'Well, you must have lost,' said the major, 'for you have just made the bet.' Of course, the money was not taken. Each man took his five back.

"I note that the Bookman, in yesterday's Free Press quotes Tennyson: 'and thinking of the days that are no more.' It was this in part that induced me to write of one of the kindest-hearted, most genial and lovable men that it has ever been my lot to meet."

146 kb

1913 – 29 May – *The Cardiff Collieries Ltd., Report of the Directors for the year ended 30th April, 1913* – death of Major Bell

> "To the Shareholders . . . . . Your Directors have again to express their regret at the loss by death of two of their number during the year.
>
> Early in January Major W.R. Bell, after a lengthy and trying illness passed away, and in February Mr. William Russell, unexpectedly succumbed to an attack of pneumonia. You will be called upon to elect Directors to fill the vacancies thus created."
>
> [Note: Major Bell died in February, not January. Possibly Mr. Russell died in January, and the dates were incorrectly entered in the report.]

119 kb

Libby (Bell) MacAulay by her grandparents' graves in Elmwood Cemetery, Winnipeg, Aug. 2013.

Major William Robert Bell (1847-1913) 84 kb Catherine [Ormiston] Bell (1871-1954) 110 kb

++

The End

Post Script

1914 – Feb. 19 – *Indian Head News,* p. 1 – Col. Sam Steele claims to be the person who directed Major Bell to select land in the future Indian Head district. We have found no other source to verify this claim.

> "**INDIAN HEAD'S NEW DRILL HALL – Officially Opened Yesterday by Col. Steele** - . . . . .Col. Steele . . . . had been in the district before; some years ago he had charge of this district which extended from Swift Current to the western boundary of Manitoba, and he it was who recommended to Major Bell the lands adjoining this town as the location for what was afterwards known as the Bell Farm, thus laying the foundation for your present prosperity and your presence on this happy occasion."

++

NEW: Link to Version 35 – Sept. 8, 2024: https://archive.org/details/bell-farm-timeline-35-8-september-2024/page/n657/mode/2up

Revisions from September 8, 2024 to March 2, 2026 Highlighted items of special interest

- **Introduction: Newspapers** – new text on the partisanship of newspaper publishers
  ++++++++++
- 1882 – Aug. 2 – *Le Constitutionnel*, p. ___ - Report of establishment of the Bell Farm (in French)
  ++++++++++
- 1883 – May 28 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 1 – Van Horne group visit the Bell Farm
- 1883 – June 2 – *Man. Daily Free Press,* p. 1 – Eberts leaves Ottawa for Winnipeg
- 1883 – June 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Plight of the Bell Farm squatters
- 1883 – June 15 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 4 – Squatters want help from Prime Minister Macdonald
- 1883 – June 15 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 8 – Rain welcome at the Bell Farm
- 1883 – July 20 – *Winnipeg Daily Sun*, p. 3 – Comment from E.B. Osler on the Bell Farm and the potential for farming in the West.
- 1883 – August 20 – *Daily Evening Mercury, Quebec City, Quebec*, p. 1 – Proposed CPR opening tour to Calgary – likely stopped at the Bell Farm going to or returning from Calgary [see also *Regina Leader* entry for August 30, 1883]
- 1883 – August 22 – *New York Sun*, p. 2 – Short report on Bell Farming Company – second largest in world
- 1883 – Sept. 5 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p 7 – Report on Bell farm crops
- 1883 – Sept. 14 – *Fort MacLeod Gazette*, p. 4 – Crop report at the Bell Farm – Red Fyfe and oats
- 1883 – Sept. 14 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 8 – Ebbert reports on Bell Farm crop
  ++++++++++

- 1884 – July 25 – *Engineering*, Vol. 38, p. 77-78 – Report on establishment of the Bell Farm in 1882; Langdon &Y Sheperd contracts for CPR Line from Oak Lake to Calgary – summer of 1882 - interesting new 1882 facts
- 1884 – Sept. 10 - excerpt from the diary of Sir John Lister Kaye – visit to Bell Farm:
  ++++++++++
- 1885 – July 10 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Lengthy anti-Conservative government article relating to supposed irregularities of transport supplies during the Rebellion, including this 2 part extract mentioning the Bell Farm (Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company).
- 1885 – Oct. 29 – *Moosomin Courier*, p. 6 – Gov. Gen. Lord Lorne comments on Bell Farm vs small farms
- 1885 – Nov. 11 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Critique of Major Bell relationship with Miniter of Militia
- 1885 – Nov. 13 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 2 – Boyle defends Bell in letter to the *Free Press*
- 1885 – Nov. 14 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p., 2 – *Free Press* editor rebuts Boyle's "Major Bell" letter
  ++++++++++
- 1887 – Jan. 21 – *Montreal Daily Herald,* p. 1 – Major and Mrs. Bell in Ottawa en route to England – Rabbit Mountains silver mining development
- 1887 – May 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 - Court Case: Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. vs. Railton
- 1887 – May 26 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, p. 3 – Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. vs. Railton - deferred
- 1887 – Aug. 25 – *Brandon Sun*, p. 4 – Dewdney, Sir George Stephen, and the Bell Farm crop
- 1887 – c. Sept. 12 – *A Trip Around the World*, by W.S. Caine, M.P. - p. 55 & 56 – a brief description of the Bell Farm – but not visited
  ++++++++++
- 1888 – July 24 – *Manitoba Daily Free Press,* p. 4 – Court Case : sale of Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company
  ++++++++++
- 1889 – April 10 – *Colonies and India*, p. 31 – Report on the new Experimental Farm, extracted from Bell Farm
  ++++++++++
- 1891 – Philip Leech – memories in *Regina Leader Post* – 2 Aug, 1955 – Worked on Bell Farm for 7 years
  ++++++++++
- 1895 – Oct. 16 – *Daily Mail and Empire,* Toronto, p. 3 – Death of Mrs. Bell – list of her siblings
  ++++++++++
- 1902 – Oct. 25 – *Manitoba Free Press* , p. 17-20 – Report on summer fallowing in the Indian Head region, including the former Bell Farm, Brassey Farm and the federal government's Experimental Farm.
  ++++++++++
- 1903 – July 8 – *Manitoba Free Press*, p. 2 – Construction of Major Bell's new steel elevator at Indian Head
  ++++++++++
- 1905 – Sept. 10 - *Grain Dealers Journal,* Vol. XV, No. 5, p. 309 & associated text, p. 308 - Trip undertaken Aug. 19 to 25.
  ++++++++++
- 1913 – Feb. 18 – *The Toronto World*, p. 6 – Death of Major Bell – several errors

Total entries as of 8 September 2024: 1834

New entries total this edition: 32

Total entries as of 2 March 2026: 1866 **Start edit: approx. p. 186 -** 1884 – July 10 – Robert Miller Christy